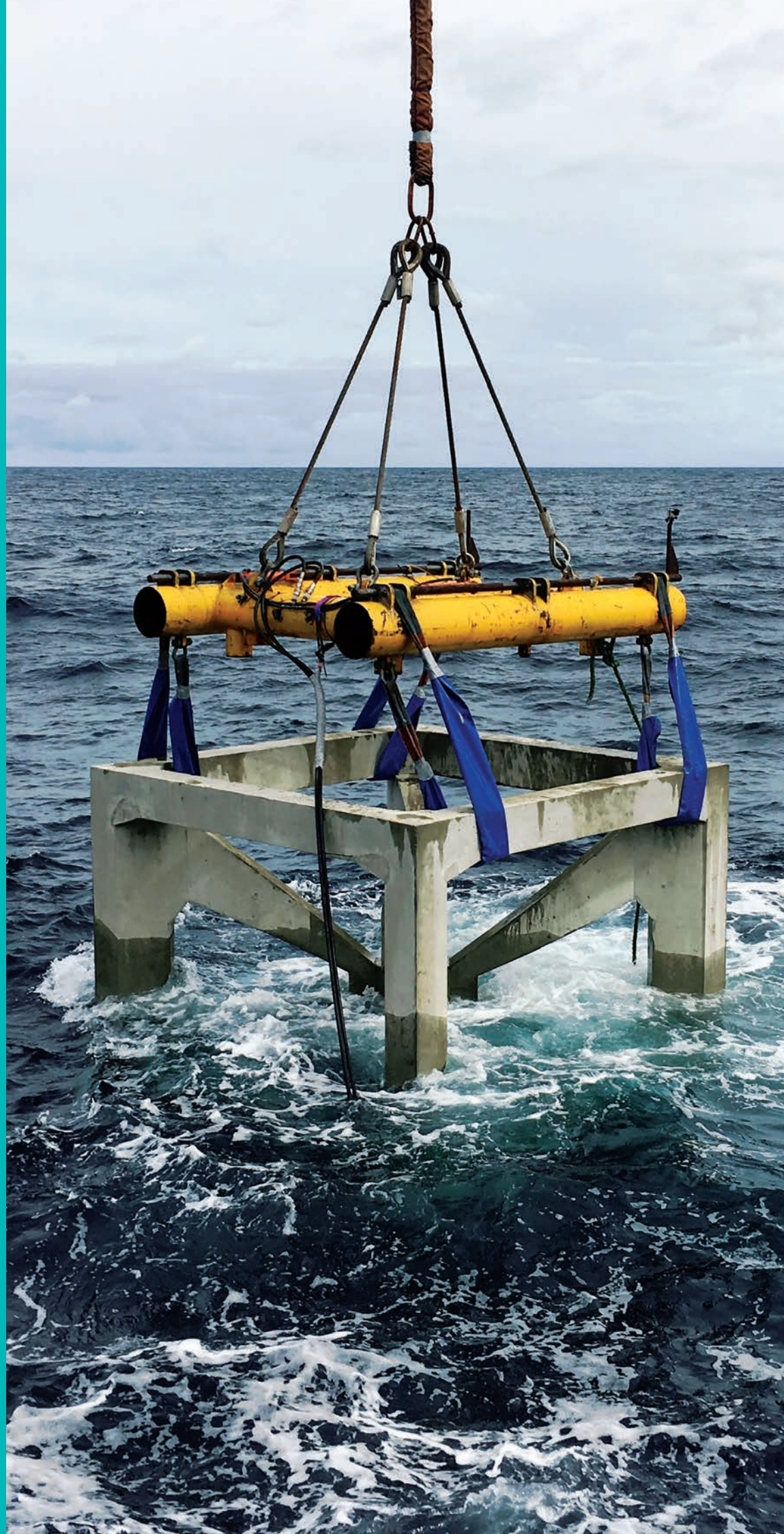


# annual report 2015 | 2016



## **CHAIRMAN**

Tim Bray

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Dr Andrew Rowland

### **Operations Manager**

Leyland Campbell

### **Communications Manager**

Tim Grose

### **Office Manager**

Yvette Guy

### **Regional Policy Officer**

Matthew Gillett

### **Community Engagement Officer**

Bronte Nardi

### **Research Officer**

James Florisson

### **Habitat Officer**

Michael Tropiano

### **Accountant**

Vanessa Abbott

### **Memberships and Events Officer**

Ruth Sprague

## **AUDITOR**

Raymond Woolley Pty Ltd

## **Supported by**



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## 1.1 chairman's report



It gives me great pleasure to present to our members and stakeholders the Recfishwest 2015/16 Annual Report – a year in which the Board and team focussed on delivering outcomes that promote great fishing experiences for all in the Western Australian community.

This year's report highlights a year in which the strategy of Recfishwest has continued to evolve and drive the team in the way we go about promoting the enjoyment of accessible, sustainable and safe recreational fishing in Western Australia.

Our purpose continues to attract new people to our cause, and in 2015/16 membership grew by 25% across all categories. The ongoing support of all our longstanding and newest members is what continues to make Recfishwest relevant, capable and powerful.

It was a year in which Recfishwest played a lead role in the Marine Stewardship Council's certification of the Peel Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery, we initiated the highly successful Snapper Guardians project, delivered on the ground facilities to keep rock fishers safe, deployed new artificial reefs and represented the interests of recreational fishers in both state and federal government processes.

Our stewardship of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) continues to deliver great outcomes to fishers across the state with investments being made in habitat enhancement, fish stocking and young future leaders. Entrusted by Government to administer this program worth over \$1 million per year the Board of Recfishwest has made a concerted effort at ensuring its governance of this fund delivers a variety of high quality projects while giving confidence to government and fishers alike.

To ensure the ongoing viability of this organisation the Board also commenced an initiative aimed at earning new revenues. While we fully intend to continue to deliver great value under the current funding arrangements with government, building new revenue streams will help to ensure Recfishwest remains strong, independent and is able to expand the services and projects it delivers for and on behalf of the recreational fishing community.

One of the first initiatives will see Recfishwest seek corporate sponsorship of our digital platforms such as our Broadcast newsletter.

We are planning for an even better 12 months in 2016/17 and you can stay on top of all that we are doing via our Broadcast Newsletter, our Facebook page or website and I encourage you tell a friend about what we are doing and encourage them to join you in supporting an organisation that is all about making fishing better.

Finally, I would like to thank the CEO Andrew Rowland and his team for their continued commitment to our purpose and delivering outcomes that make this a great organisation.

See you out there.

**Tim Bray**  
Chairman

## 1.2 the board

The Recfishwest Board of Directors was elected by the Recfishwest membership at the 2015 Annual General Meeting, held on 21 October 2015.

The board contains 8 directors comprising (5) nominated directors and three (3) appointed directors (Figure 1). The Board has a non-voting Chairman elected to the Board of directors

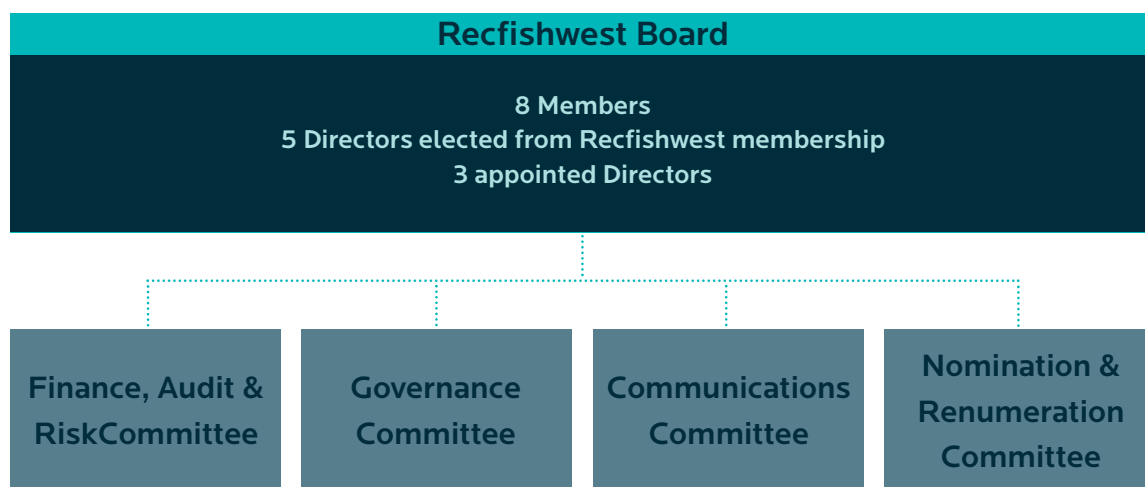


Figure 1 Recfishwest Board Structure



### **Tim Bray Chairman** Elected Director

Tim is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chairman of Recfishwest. He is also Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Tim was first appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2012 for a one year term and subsequently re-appointed for a two year term in October 2013.

Tim worked as a fisheries scientist, fisheries manager and senior advisor to the Minister for Fisheries over a 14 year period before joining Western Power as Manager Corporate Affairs. Tim was also the General Manager of Corporate Communications with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two years before joining Ecocentric Energy as its inaugural CEO.

Tim is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Tim was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2015 AGM for a two year term.



### **Geoff Ellis Deputy Chair** Elected Director

Geoff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest. He is currently the Deputy Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. He also represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme.

Currently, (semi-retired) Geoff is a Director of Super Nova Motor Yachts trading as Offshore Marine and has been for the past 26 years. He has managed several retail boat and caravan sales businesses in WA.

Geoff has held the following positions, President/Finance Director of Boating Industry Association WA, member of Caravan Industry Association WA, member of the Motor Trade Association, licenced motor vehicle dealer and licenced second hand dealer.

Geoff was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2015 AGM for a two year term.



## 1.2 the board continued



### **Michael Burgess** Elected Director

Michael is an independent non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee. He is also the WA Regional and Social Media Administrator for the Redmap project.

Michael is currently the State Co-ordinator of Fishcare Victoria after making the move interstate in June 2016. Michael is a keen recreational fisher from Dunsborough and also has extensive experience in marine science and holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Aquaculture and Seafood Science.

Michael has previously been a key member of the Department of Fisheries for 12 years with the past 6 years residing on the South West Coast as a Coordinator of Community Education.

Michael was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2014 AGM for a two year term.



### **Jason Froud** Elected Director

Jason is an independent non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chair of the Communications Committee.

Jason has worked during the last seven years with a Western Australian energy company in senior corporate affairs and policy roles using his knowledge of politics, science, the media, social trends and economics. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) as well as a Graduate Diploma Business (Management) and Diploma Public Sector Management.

Jason has previously been involved with the Aquarium of Western Australia, Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef and the Department of Fisheries in Western Australia in policy, education and curatorial roles with nearly 20 years of marine experience and policy knowledge and skills.

Jason was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2015 AGM for a two year term.



### **Dean Thorburn** Elected Director

Dean is an independent non-executive director of Recfishwest and a member of the Governance Committee. Dean has been elected for the Board on three separate occasions, with his most recent election being in 2014 for a two year term.

Dean is a Director and Principal Scientist of a Western Australian environmental consulting company which specialises in studies of fish, fish habitat and fisheries. He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) which looked at fish distributions, biology and food web dynamics in the Kimberley and Northern Territory; received a Bachelor of Science (Biological Science and Marine Science) in 1998; and completed his Honours in Biological Science (B.Sc.Hons) in 1999 studying fish habitat requirements in the Blackwood River. Dean has also previously worked in the commercial fishing sector which provided invaluable insight into commercial fishery operations and consumer habitats in WA.

Dean enjoys all facets of recreational fishing in freshwater, estuary and marine environments and has fished and dived throughout Australia. Dean has always been an avid SCUBA diver and free-diver and is a member of the Bluewater Freedivers of WA. Dean has found a new enthusiasm for sharing fishing experiences, knowledge and conservation principles with his three young sons.



### **Kevin Gammage** Appointed Director

Kevin is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and also Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee. He is currently serving his second term as one of the three appointed Directors of Recfishwest.

Currently, Kevin is a partner in the corporate law firm Nova Legal. Prior to being admitted to practice in Western Australia, Kevin worked in the corporate sector, spending sixteen years at senior management level and CEO level in listed and unlisted companies with annual sales revenue between \$50 - \$90 million.

In these roles Kevin led negotiations relating to business sales and acquisitions, supply agreements, intellectual property licensing, structuring of shareholder arrangements and capital raisings.

## 1.2 the board continued



### **Heidi Cuthbert** Appointed Director

Heidi is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Heidi was appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2015 for a two year term. Heidi is an experienced marketing and communications professional, backed by a decade of media experience, mostly in business and finance journalism. Heidi holds an MBA (Distinction) from Murdoch University and a Graduate Certificate in Finance from the University of Technology in Sydney. Heidi is also working towards completing her Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA) qualifications with CPA Australia.

Heidi is the Managing Partner of Perth-based content marketing firm Multiplier.

Heidi has 15+ years' experience in communications and roles as business news anchor for Channel 9 Sydney and Bloomberg TV in the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions.

Heidi has strong skills in the areas of strategic planning and implementation of multi-stakeholder communications campaigns.



### **Jeff Cooper** Appointed Director (September 2016)

Jeff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and was appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2016 for a two year term. Jeff is the past President of the Broome Fishing Club, and former Chair of Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group. Jeff is also a former board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority, and a representative of the International Game Fishing Association.

Jeff is past manager of the Broome Aquaculture Centre and currently the Portfolio Manager at the North Regional TAFE (former Kimberley Training Institute) for Aquaculture, Fisheries, Maritime (including the Broome Maritime Simulation Centre), ASD training, Logistics, Aviation, Warehousing, Children's Services, Aged Care, Community Services, Short Courses.

Jeff oversees training program development and implementation across 1 Million Square Kilometres of area including the Kimberley and Pilbara. He has the ability to undertake complex programs including; large scale barramundi restocking activities, bespoke high end maritime simulation work, broad scale training programs in extremely remote Aboriginal communities, and customised training activities for large clients.

Jeff is an avid recreational angler and has been a major proponent for barramundi stock enhancement in the Kimberley and has been heavily involved with restocking Dampier creek, and project leader for the Lake Kununurra Restocking project. He has been a mentor for Recfishwest past 3 Young Future Leaders programs.

## 2.3 board members

Elected Director	Number of meetings attended
Tim Bray	11
Geoff Ellis	7
Dean Thorburn	7
Michael Burgess	7
Jason Froud	9
Kevin Gammage	10
Heidi Cuthbert	9
12 meetings held between August 2015 and August 2016	



## 1.4 chief executive officer's report



As a community based organisation made up of keen fishers, Recfishwest shares and embodies the beliefs and values of those who love fishing in everything we do. Recfishwest has always been an organisation driven by a distinct purpose and this year we revisited and refocussed our organisations vision for what we exist to deliver.

**Our Purpose: Great fishing experiences for all in the WA community forever.**

**Our Commitment: To protect, promote and develop sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing for the benefit of the community.**

I'm keen to get these statements front and centre within this year's annual report so readers can see that our activities and achievements are tangible products directly linked to what Recfishwest stands for.

This year we've seen some of the best fishing in my recent memory in WA, right up and down the coast with Lake Kununurra now firing, quality numbers of Threadfin Salmon around Broome to huge numbers of Rock Lobster along the West Coast and the spectacular autumn 2016 Salmon run.

We're extremely proud to do what we do and deliver outcomes that improve your fishing, and the Recfishwest team are at the forefront of innovation, protection and development of recreational fishing in WA.

This annual report is an opportunity to share with you our achievements of the year including:

- The Snapper Guardians project – seeing 50,000 Pink Snapper released into Cockburn Sound.
- The installation of our 3rd Artificial Reef – the latest in Mandurah.
- Releasing WA's first ever fishing rules Smartphone App, an important sustainability tool.
- Another 1 million prawns released into the Swan River, making over 4 million released in total.
- Barramundi now approaching the magic 1 meter mark in Lake Kununurra after over 550,000 were stocked over the past few years.
- Rock fishing safety equipment installed with the help of the community from Quobba through to Esperance.

The next few years bring many more opportunities (and challenges) for recreational fishing in WA. Recfishwest's focus on a measured strategic planning approach should position us well to make the most of these opportunities. The implementation of the new Aquatic Resources Management Act currently going through the parliament will, for the first time, recognise recreational fishing access rights and provide many advantages for better management. We will continue to work hard on new and exciting fishing development project such as artificial reefs, fish stocking, better data collection and safety programs.

We are keen to see further development in shellfish reef and estuarine shoreline restoration for fish nursery habitats which will lead to improved estuary and nearshore fishing opportunities. We are focused on realising the best value from healthy fisheries that are key to providing great fishing experiences such as herring, crabs, dhufish, marron, south coast estuaries, barramundi and pelagic sport fishing species to name a few.

I must acknowledge the people whose collective efforts continue to achieve great outcomes for fishing in WA. This annual report contains the biographies of our fishing clinic volunteers as well as members of our reference groups. Many of Recfishwest achievements are underpinned by the work of committed volunteers. Please take the time to appreciate the efforts of these individuals in contributing to education, events and management input that supports great fishing.

I am very grateful to have such a dedicated office team that turn up with a common purpose, who all love fishing and are more than willing to go above and beyond to ensure positive outcomes for the community that share their passion. Whether it is striving to maximise community engagement in management decisions or assisting fishers in returning safe to their family at the end of a days fishing, their individual commitment to our organisation is inspiring.

As we strive for growth in our business to deliver more to the fishing community of WA, your feedback on anything fishing is always welcomed. We're here to help you and your family experience WA's great fishing which sometimes we all take for granted.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Recfishwest Directors for their dedication and support throughout this year, particularly our Chairman for his insight, good judgement and commitment.

**Dr. Andrew Rowland**  
Chief Executive Officer





**Andrew Rowland** Chief Executive Officer

Andrew has long been avid fisher and enjoys many types from marron, trout and redfin to offshore species and everything in between. He loves getting on the water at all opportunities and will be found in his boat or kayak or wading the flats most weekends. He studied at Murdoch University and has a Ph.D. in Fisheries Science. Andrew is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Recfishwest, a role he has filled since 2012. He is a Director for Fishability (formally Fishers with Disabilities Association). Andrew plays role which provides advice the FRDC as member the Recfishing Research Steering Committee. He sits on the Certification Advisory Body the WA MSC initiative and is a member of the Premier's Marine Science Roundtable.

Andrew believes that rec fishing provides significant social, cultural, health and economic benefits to WA and is passionate about maintaining and building this value for the benefit to the whole community. He understands that natural resource management requires striking a balance between competing user groups, and various (often diverse) stakeholders in protecting the resource which they value. A key component to achieving the right balance is ensuring the interest and values of West Australians who enjoy fishing are effectively represented to protect and develop great fishing experiences.



**Vanessa Abbott** Accountant

Vanessa is the accountant for Recfishwest and holds a Bachelor of Business Degree from Edith Cowan University. Vanessa is a member of the Institute of Practising Accountants. This is a requirement of Recfishwest's important role in administering and co-ordinating the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. Vanessa views her work for Recfishwest since 2012 as a pleasure as well as a privilege.

Her previous experience as a wholesale business owner, as well as having worked for organisations from insurance to a company with a chain of stores, has provided Vanessa with the acumen required to deliver audit compliant financial reports and budgets that consider the complexities of multi-year project cost centres.

Vanessa strives to maintain good financial control whilst remaining flexible to the demands of the dynamic organisation that is Recfishwest.



**Leyland Campbell** Operations Manager

Leyland started at Recfishwest as a Research Officer in 2012, before being appointed to Principal Policy Officer in 2013. This position transformed into Operations Manager in 2016. As Operations Manager, Leyland is responsible for ensuring Recfishwest's day to day business activities are running smoothly and providing the best possible outcomes for the states estimated 752,000 recreational fishers.

Leyland has a Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Aquaculture and Seafood Science and has managed aquaculture training facilities in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Leyland has spent over ten years as a lecturer at various universities and has practical experience in the culture of a number of tropical and temperate species.

In addition to tertiary postgraduate qualifications, Leyland also possess an unrestricted Coxswain Certificate, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Certificate IV in Small Business and Frontline Management and is a recent graduate from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Fishing has always been a passion for Leyland and he finds the challenge of helping to protect the rights of the recreational fishing community and improving fishing experiences to be very rewarding.



**James Florisson** Research Officer

James started at Recfishwest in 2013 after completing the Young Future Leadership program, working part time while completing a Marine Science Degree at Murdoch University. In 2014 James took part in the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, completed a Diploma in Fisheries Compliance and Management from the Kimberley Training Institute and started Honours studying citizen science as a tool for monitoring artificial reefs.

He graduated in mid-2015 with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Marine Science and started fulltime employment with Recfishwest. In the Office James assists with the administration of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, conducts research into citizen science monitoring methods and the development of Habitat Enhancement Structures and assists in recreational fishing research around Western Australia.



## 2: recfishwest staff continued

Growing up in Esperance, James has a passion for the marine environment and in particular fishing. Surface fishing for pelagics and jigging for demersals is James' favourite ways to spend a weekend and after fishing all his life James enjoys working at Recfishwest to do his part for fishing in WA.



**Matt Gillett** Regional Policy Officer

Having grown up in a small South West community, Matt had a strong community spirit instilled in him from a young age. His love of fishing was borne out of family trips to Denmark on the south coast, and later with time spent on Christmas Island in the late 90's. Matt has fished in almost every corner of WA and believes that the fishing opportunities on offer here are world class.

Matt attended the Recfishwest Future Leader program in 2008 and has been involved with Recfishwest in some capacity ever since. On completion of a 1 year term on the Board in 2009, Matt joined the Recfishwest team as a staff member in October 2010. He took on the Regional Policy Officer position in 2013 where he remains currently. Matt enjoys his work in visiting regional communities and provisioning solutions and promoting increased fishing opportunities across the state.



**Tim Grose** Communications Manager

Tim is Recfishwest's Communications Manager and looks after communications and community engagement activities. Tim started with Recfishwest in April 2014 as our Community Engagement Officer but has since evolved into the role of Communications Manager.

Tim has six years' experience as a water resources expert and spent time as a Senior Water Planner at Department of Water, WA State Government, and Queensland State Government's Department of Natural Resources and Water. Tim also has vast experience within the AFL and WAFL systems, coaching at WAFL level while spending time in Tonga, South Pacific, as an AFL Ambassador for game development and community engagement.

Tim has a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Resource Management and Aquaculture from Central Queensland University. A mad keen fisher, Tim can usually be found on weekends throwing stick baits from Perth's beaches chasing Salmon, Tailor or Herring. In the summer Tim loves his flats fishing and is usually waist deep in the Swan River chasing Flathead or Yellowfin Whiting, but also adventures below the water in search of Prawns and Blue Swimmer Crabs. You may see him down at the Hillarys boat ramp at sunrise venturing out to pull Lobster pots, just in time for Christmas.



**Yvette Guy** Office Manager

Yvette is the Office Manager at Recfishwest and is currently studying her Certificate IV in Bookkeeping and is a member of the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers. She has been employed with Recfishwest since 2006 and during that time has had various roles which have included, memberships, fishing clinic and events co-ordinator.

Her responsibilities ensure that the daily operations run efficiently and her organisational skills keep our team running smoothly whilst assisting the CEO and Operations Manager.

Yvette previously came from an insurance background of 20 years and has been self-employed in that same industry. Yvette has seen many changes during her 10 years at Recfishwest and is proud to be part of such a dynamic team.



**Bronte Nardi** Community Engagement Officer

Bronte started at Recfishwest in 2015 as the Community Engagement Officer. In her role she has had the opportunity to work in the areas of rock fishing safety, fishing clinics, and communications.

Recently Bronte was fortunate enough to participate in the Next Wave Young Future Leaders Program. She saw it as an opportunity to better equip herself for her role and looks forward to implementing her new skills.

Prior to Recfishwest, Bronte completed a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in Public Relations at Murdoch University. With her background and passion for online communications, Bronte looks forward to continuing to be a part of the Recfishwest team and further developing her knowledge in the communications field.

## 2: recfishwest staff continued



**Ruth Sprague** Memberships and Events Officer

Ruth joined Recfishwest in August 2014 as the Administration officer, however her strengths in events and customer service shaped this position to that of Memberships and Events Officer and she enjoys the varied nature of her role and meeting the members.

Her experience as a previous business owner in the retail sector, as well as having worked in both a wide variety of government and non-government organisations, has provided Ruth with the skills and experience required to deliver quality customer service outcomes.

Raised by a very keen fisher with the mantra “the only right you have is the right to be useful and make a difference” she enjoys cricket, AFL and cooking desserts.



**Michael Tropiano** Habitat Officer

Michael “Tropi” Tropiano, Marine Scientist and keen fisher, is Recfishwest’s Habitat Officer and part of the research team at Recfishwest. In his role Michael has been working with fishers to increase awareness around the importance of healthy fish habitats and the role these habitats play in ensuring healthy fisheries. Michael is always looking for opportunities to improve fish habitat and fishing in Western Australia.

Prior to joining Recfishwest, Michael studied at Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and the University of Western Australia where in 2015 he graduated with a double degree in Commerce and Marine Science, the latter for which he also completed a first class honours. As well as his studies, his experience gained from the long hours spent in and on the water fishing and spearfishing, working on fishing charters, as well as time spent in the field researching fish ecology and biology along the West Australian coastline, gives him a unique understanding of West Australia’s fish.



### 3.1 fisheries management issues

#### 3.1.1 herring

Most Western Australians have a close affinity with Herring. These little fish are the heroes and life blood of recreational fishing in WA and are an important part of our culture.

Herring is the first fish that many fishers catch and it is one of the main species parents introduce to their children when teaching them to fish.

A staple fish for recreational fishers, their popularity comes from their abundance and accessibility from both shore and boat based fishing, as well as the fact they make versatile table fare.

They are the most widely caught species of shore fishers in the southern half of the state, thus their value cannot be understated.

Back in 2013 the Department of Fisheries released research suggesting that Herring stocks were under serious pressure and that there had to be a 50% reduction in the catch of these family favourites.

Recfishwest fought hard to ensure the Department of Fisheries and the Minister for Fisheries were aware of the social and economic importance of Herring and we advocated for management changes which led the government to prioritise the use of Herring for recreational and human consumption purposes.

These management changes came into effect at the start of 2015 and all management arrangements are planned to be reviewed by the end of 2016. Recfishwest received a letter from the Premier confirming his expectation that this review will take into account the economic and social values of this fishery.

Since sustainability concerns were first raised over 36 months ago, Recfishwest have supported the Department's research and proactively pushed for management action that will maintain recreational access to Herring while also ensuring the speedy recovery of this precious resource. We have been patient and professional in our dealings with the Department of Fisheries on this vitally important fishery.

In January 2015 Recfishwest requested a briefing on the development of a recovery plan for Herring and we have been disappointed with the lack of urgency the development of this request has received.

A recovery plan/Harvest Strategy is an agreement between the government and the community about how a fishery will be managed to ensure its sustainability. This plan should contain clear objectives, targets, thresholds and limit reference levels, as well as associated management actions should these levels be reached. These plans should be easy to understand and provide the community with reassurance that Herring stocks are being sustainably managed.

In June this year Recfishwest were provided with a draft Herring Harvest Strategy which we provided comment on. Since then we have not heard back from the Department despite repeated attempts to progress recovery of this fishery.

Considering Harvest Strategies have been developed for a number of commercial fisheries it is disappointing such an important recreational fishery appears to have once again taken a back seat to commercial priorities.

Recfishwest is aware a Harvest Strategy for Herring has been developed however we have not seen the final version of this strategy before its release for public comment and do not know if our comments on the draft strategy were incorporated into the final document.

Recfishwest will continue to fight to ensure the priorities of government continue to utilise Herring for recreation and human consumption purposes.

#### 3.1.2 carnarvon fish traps

In January 2016 Recfishwest was approached by the Department of Fisheries seeking comments on a proposal to use fish traps in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery (GOSF). Spanning from Steep Point to Coral Bay, this fishery is highly important to the recreational fishing sector.

Recfishwest consulted the community extensively on this proposal, including repeated visits to the town of Carnarvon. During our consultation, we received over 250 written submissions from all over the state from a range of people who all voiced their concern about the proposed trial.



## 3.1 fisheries management issues continued

The overwhelming sentiment from the community was that the fish trap trial was not acceptable.

Recfishwest collated community concerns and advised the government accordingly that the trial of fish traps did not have the support of the community and that any plans to allow a trial of this nature should be scrapped.

Recfishwest cited the following reasons for its position:

### 1. Lack of evidence to support the trial and high level of uncertainty.

Any significant change to the management of a fishery (particularly when administered by an Exemption from the law) must be supported by evidence or data and take into account the best available science.

In the case of the proposed "Fish Trap Trial in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery" as developed by the Department of Fisheries, no evidence or science was provided to support or validate the following:

- a) Levels of shark predation in this fishery
- b) How, and to what level, the introduction of traps will reduce total shark induced mortality in this fishery
- c) Claims of recent improvement in trap design and the absence of best practice mitigation measures to reduce the risk of lost traps and ghost fishing
- d) Changes to overall fishing mortality, including benefits/impacts on undersized and unwanted target and non-target species
- e) Changes in composition of retained non-pink snapper species by switching from line to traps
- f) Claims of a biological dividend returned from the nullification of shark depredation on hooked fish, given that this predation will likely occur within the ecosystem regardless of fishing activities

### 2. Absence of a formal harvest strategy for the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource.

A harvest strategy is an agreement between government and the community. It is an essential tool that provides the public with confidence that community owned resources are being effectively managed to achieve agreed ecological, economic and/or social management objectives.

A harvest strategy establishes clear and specifically articulated performance levels and associated management actions in a fishery. A harvest strategy ensures that fishery managers, fishers, and key stakeholders have improved certainty and transparency when fishery management decisions are being made.

A harvest strategy is needed for the Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource as a whole (which includes the GDSF) to provide the community with assurance that the Department of Fisheries recognises all the values for which management should be focused.

Without a harvest strategy and clearly defined Harvest Control Rules the introduction of traps into the GDSF would very likely have led to increased catches of important recreational species such as red emperor, spangled emperor, cods and coral trout.

### 3. Lack of clear and measurable objectives of this trial.

A fundamental requirement of any trial is clear and measurable objectives. It was unclear how the proposed trial would have been evaluated. Recfishwest understands that the two main drivers for this proposal were shark depredation on line caught fish and the enhancement of economic viability. It was especially unclear how either of these would have been evaluated given that neither were planned to be measured as part of the proposal.

## 3.1 fisheries management issues continued

### 4. Lack of community support and consideration of social impact.

From the feedback Recfishwest has received, it is abundantly clear that the community did not support this proposal. Recfishwest could not identify where any social considerations had been considered in the development of this proposal.

Community feedback continuously cited fears the proposed trial would ruin fishing experiences in local waters. Of particular concern was localised depletion of key recreational species caused through changes in commercial fishing operations as a consequence of the introduction of traps to the region.

A community meeting organised by the Department of Fisheries aimed to convince the community to support the trial. This meeting attracted hundreds of concerned residents who after listening to all the arguments for the trial sent a clear message to the Department of Fisheries rejecting the proposed trial. In late March, the then Minister for Fisheries Ken Baston announced that the trial would not go ahead.

### 3.1.3 dhufish boat limit

In 2009 following concern about stock levels of the Vulnerable 5 (Dhufish, Pink Snapper, Baldchin Grouper, Break Sea Cod and Red Snapper) the Department of Fisheries said catches must be reduced by 50% in order to ensure the sustainability of these stocks.

In order to meet this target a range of management measures were introduced including a reduced bag limit of demersal fish, two month closure on the West Coast Bioregion and the introduction of a boat limit for Dhufish. At the time it was not known whether these management actions would be enough to reduce catches by 50%.

In October 2013 Recfishwest received a briefing on the 2011/12 I-Survey and the 2010/11 stock assessment for West Coast Demersal Scalefish. This briefing demonstrated that the management changes implemented in 2009 had reduced the recreational catch of demersal fish in the West Coast by the required 50%. The research also showed catches of Dhufish were well below target levels indicating the boat limit for Dhufish may have been a management measure that was more conservative than necessary.

Following this briefing believed changes to the Dhufish boat limit may provide a double benefit of improving fishing amenity while reducing recreational pressure on other recovering demersal species such as snapper while maintaining catches at below the 50% target level.

After discussions with the Department of Fisheries researchers and managers Recfishwest agreed that any changes to the Dhufish boat limit should wait until the results of the next boat based survey which would also contain valuable information about the reasons for releasing fish.

Results from the next boat based survey once again demonstrated the recreational fishing community was continuing to catch Dhufish at a level more than 30t under the target limit. This means that rather than achieving a reduction in Dhufish catches of 50% we actually achieved a reduction in catches of over 60%.

While over two thirds of recreationally caught Dhufish in the West Coast Bioregion were released the Dhufish boat limit accounted for only 16% of these releases. The high proportion of undersize Dhufish (70% of releases) substantiates anecdotal evidence of strong Dhufish recruitment. The presence of large numbers of Dhufish that have not yet recruited to the fishery should provide managers with a degree of comfort about the speed of recovery of Dhufish.

Following the release of the latest boat based survey Recfishwest proposed raising the Dhufish boat limit while retaining the individual bag limit of one fish. Recfishwest believe increasing the Dhufish Boat limit will not jeopardise the recovery of the species and will keep catches below the 50% target level while simultaneously providing a major positive impact on recreational fishing amenity.

The current boat limit for Dhufish is seen as inequitable for those fishers who pay for a fishing from boat license and go fishing with a couple of friends.

### 3.1 fisheries management issues continued

Recfishwest believe that increasing the Dhufish boat limit will have minimal impact on Dhufish stocks, ease pressure on other recovering species, support IFM policy, align with objects of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and be seen as more equitable by licence holders.

The Department of Fisheries agreed to review Recfishwest's request following the results of the latest stock assessment.



#### 3.1.4 MSC marine stewardship council

Have you ever looked on the side of a can of tuna, seen a blue tick and wondered what it means? That mark is a symbol of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and is awarded to fisheries that can demonstrate that the product can be traced back to a sustainable source. The MSC is an international non-profit organisation established to address the problem of unsustainable fishing and safeguard seafood supplies for the future. MSC certification is the gold standard for sustainable fisheries management and was established in 1996 by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Unilever although it is independent of these two groups.

In June this year MSC certification in the Peel Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery was awarded to both the Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association and Recfishwest, who were co-clients in the certification process. This is the first time in the world that MSC certification had been awarded to a recreational fishery.

The Peel-Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery is the most popular WA recreational fishery and also provides a livelihood for 10 commercial crab licence holders. Receiving this world-first certification ensures the longevity of this fishery and Recfishwest has been an enthusiastic supporter of the process, which protects and promotes sustainable and enjoyable fishing opportunities for the WA community.

Recfishwest believe obtaining this certification was never an exercise in achieving sustainability or gaining recognition for being sustainable, but rather an exercise in ensuring that correct management measures are maintained and improved if needed to ensure people can come to Mandurah with the confidence that their crabs are here to stay. The MSC certification gives the community reassurance they will be able to continue to catch crabs in the Peel Harvey Estuary for generations, while at the same time as remaining compatible with the outstanding environmental values of the estuary.





## 3.1 fisheries management issues continued

### 3.1.5 recfishwest reference groups

Recfishwest's reference groups are designed to provide advice and recommendations from fishers who have a great deal of expertise in specific fisheries. Recfishwest utilises the knowledge these groups provide to guide Board decisions and to help identify strategic goals and management arrangements for particular fisheries.

Recfishwest currently utilises the expertise of reference groups for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery and the SouthWest Freshwater and Marron Fisheries. Recfishwest also has a similar group comprising of Association representatives and another comprised of Fishing Industry representatives.

Recfishwest's Western Rock Lobster Reference Group has continually added valuable input and weight to optimise the management of the recreational rock lobster fishery. Our Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group provides advice on stocking and habitat management for trout and marron in Western Australia.

Recfishwest wishes to thank all reference group members for their continuing hard work and contribution towards ensuring high quality recreational fishing experiences in WA.

#### Rock Lobster Reference Group

##### **Norman Halse** Chair



Norman Halse has fished recreationally all his life in the West Coast and Gascoyne and now fishes mainly around Rottnest for lobster in particular. He was a foundation board member of Recfishwest, on the Executive Committee as chair of the Policy Committee and was Board Chairman 2001-2003. He trained as an agricultural scientist who was also interested in environmental conservation and had career high points as Director General of Agriculture in WA, president of the Conservation Council of WA and membership of the Environmental protection Authority in WA.

##### **Michael Heslewood**



Michael have been active and passionately fishing for over 45 years, in all the various fishing methods and types. Michael really enjoys being able to use this experience to help guide the sustainable management of our recreational fisheries for future generations of fishers in WA. Michael especially enjoys rock lobster fishing and the diversity of the Cape Naturaliste fishing scene

##### **Bob Urquhart**



Bob grew up in Gunnedah New South Wales; and his first fishing experience was in the freshwater inland river system of northern NSW. In 1964 Bob's family moved to Geraldton where the family business was Rock Lobster fishing based at North Island in the Abrolhos and Freshwater Point, south of Geraldton. Bob has been a keen recreational fisher and diver all of his life.

Bob's work in the community involves being a member and former Chair of the Mid-West Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RRFAC) 1994-2011, a Member Abrolhos Islands Consultative Council 1993-1995, the Northern Representative Recreational Rock Lobster Review Committee and Member - Chairman of the Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Committee for 22 years.

##### **Brody Laroux**



Brody loves fishing in the metro area for snapper and the many bottom species available, as well as heading north to Exmouth to chase pelagic fish as often as possible. Being an avid recreational cray fisher since a young age, he was really keen to be a part of the WRL reference group so as to gain a better understanding of fisheries management and to be able to add any input that I have to offer towards better outcomes for recreational fishers in the future.

##### **Ross George**



Ross started his fishing career in Mandurah as a boy and has continued on mainly crayfishing and fishing off Rottnest and with occasional holidays up north fishing at Ningaloo, Shark Bay and Exmouth. Ross volunteered to participate in decisions that will help ensure the long term future of recreational crayfishing.

## 3.1 fisheries management issues continued



### **Brian Snook**

Brian has spent the vast majority of his life diving and fishing the waters of the North West, mostly recreationally but has also spent time commercially fishing and prawning.

As a Life Member of the Exmouth Game Fishing Club (EGFC) and a Team Leader within the day to day work environment, Brian has a good understanding of how diverse groups of people can work together and what is needed to make things happen, both in discussion and procedurally.

Brian joined the rock lobster reference group to represent recreational interests of the unique area he lives in and have a positive input into any discussions and subsequent recommendations.



### **Rob Hoefhamer**

Rob has lived in the Midwest for 28 years and has 5 children up to 16 with his partner Amanda.

Having worked at sea all his life variously as a fisherman, charter skipper and now in the merchant marine, Rob has a special passion and interest in the Abrolhos Islands. Rob's family are keen recfishers and this has led to him becoming more involved in "having his say" rather than sitting on the sidelines!



### **John Baas**

John is a previous Board member of Recfishwest and a keen diver for Rock Lobster. John has decades of experience fishing and boating around Western Australia chasing all manner of species including potting for rock Lobster around Jurien Bay over a period of ten years.

### **Freshwater Reference Group**



### **Ian Sewell**

Ian has been the Editor/Director of The WA Fishing Magazine for the past seven years. During and previous to this, Ian ran and owned tackle stores around the Perth Metro area and as such has had a lot of contact with recreational anglers over the years. He has been privy to their stories regarding the state of the fisheries and concerns that many of us have. He has been around tackle shops for approximately 15 to 18 years on and off with a few jaunts around the world and the country doing a few different jobs such as running charter boats and the like.

Ian's love of fishing has seen him competing and representing Australia and WA on many different occasions in fly fishing and bream tournaments. These tournaments have taken him to many waterways around Australia and New Zealand.



### **Alex Burgoyne**

Alexis a keen South West fisho who was a member of Next Wave: future leaders in recreational fishing 2013/14. Alex works in the Water industry as a Hydrographer with the Department of Water, where he collects data on river flows and water quality. Being involved in the water industry has led Alex to become a keen freshwater fisho and he brings knowledge and experience to the group in this field.



### **Peter Ryall**

Peter has over the years been a Council member of WATFAA, a representative on the South West RRFAC and a member of the Recfishwest FFRG and its Department of Fisheries predecessor. His special interest is in the viability of brown and rainbow trout in the south west rivers and in seeking to improve wild fish stocks.



### **John McConigley**

Trout fishing in particular and fishing in general has been John's passion since he first held a fly rod at the age of seven years. The social and economic benefit of freshwater fishing is underestimated by rural communities and governments in general and this can be addressed in part by Recfishwest. With over sixty six years of fishing and observing fisheries around the world, John has given some insights that can assist in the growth of freshwater fishing in WA.



### **Harry Vosper**

Harry developed his love of Fly Fishing and general Freshwater Fishing from a very early age. He has been fortunate to fish some of the best "Trout Waters" in the world and visited some of the leading Freshwater Fisheries. Harry is passionate about giving back to the community including having held roles in the West Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association and the Recfishwest Board.

### 3.1 fisheries management issues continued



#### **Russel Hanley**

Russell Hanley has been a keen freshwater angler for more than 50 years and has fished rivers and lakes all over the world, beginning as a bait fisherman, progressing through spin fishing to finally becoming a passionate fly fisher in the last few years. Russell joined the Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group because he has a strong commitment to the preservation of trout stocking and fishing in the rivers and impoundments of the South-West.

He is a professional environmental scientist with a very good understanding of freshwater ecology and understands the largest threats to the aquatic systems of the region are landscape modification and water extraction in a drying climate.



#### **Bretton Stitfold**

Bretton has enjoyed freshwater fishing as a kid since the 1980's for trout and marron particularly the Dwellingup area, where his parents had a hobby farm where they stocked the stream and dams on the property. This allowed Bretton to recognise the requirements of both species for survival. ie water quality , temperature, in- water structures, food sources and supply.

Having read widely on W.A. freshwater fishing –ref W.A. Fisheries papers, history of stocking in W.A. and fishing throughout areas of W.A. where trout/marron exist and are also inclined to adventure off the beaten track to fish areas less often visited.

Volunteering to be on this committee allowed Bretton to have some input into the areas to be stocked and the quantities, sizes of them based on this knowledge and by fishing the areas are able to ascertain their success.



#### **David Morgan**

David has fished recreationally for marron over the last 25 years in most rivers in Western Australia. He has conducted research into most inland recreational fishes and crayfishes in Western Australia and published extensively on these. He has been a member of the Recreational Freshwater Fish Stakeholder Sub-committee since its inception.





## 3.2 recreational fishing initiatives fund

### 3.2.1 key Projects for 2016

The Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) is a State Government grants program administered by Recfishwest. The RFIF was established in 2010 following the introduction of fishing from boat licence. The RFIF was created to enable the funding of initiatives, projects and research that aligns with the priorities of the recreational fishing community and enhances fishing in Western Australia.

The RFIF process has been administered by Recfishwest on behalf of the government since 2011. Over \$9 million of recreational licence revenue has been invested through the RFIF into projects that directly benefit recreational fishing and aquatic environments all over Western Australia.

Each year a list of prioritised projects the recreational fishing sector would like funded is presented to the Minister for Fisheries by Recfishwest. The Minister has absolute discretion in the application of the funds. This year the Minister announced 16 projects that will be funded through the RFIF in 2016/17.

#### **RFIF Round 5 Projects**

**Dampier Artificial Reef** - Co-investment in an artificial reef for the waters off Dampier. This reef will improve offshore fishing opportunity through creating new fish habitat. In addition, the reef will act as a tourist attraction and help to diversify the local economy. This project is reliant on obtaining additional funding through the Governments Royalty for Region funding scheme however with support from the City of Karratha and funding from the RFIF we have high hopes that the additional funds will be approved.

**Esperance and Exmouth Artificial Reefs** – This project involves installing artificial reefs in Esperance and Exmouth to provide safe accessible nearshore fishing opportunities in close proximity to boat ramps. Each reef will contain 96 purpose built modules spread in clusters across several hectares.

**Albany Oyster Reef Phase Two** - This project aims to restore 400 m<sup>2</sup> of oyster reef habitat in Oyster Harbour after the success of the initial pilot project.

**Determining the Economic Value of Recreational Fishing** - Fishers expend considerable resources in pursuit of the fishing experience. These expenditures have direct and indirect impacts on the economy, generating output, incomes and jobs in supplying industries. This project will quantify the economic value of recreational fishing in Western Australia.

**Connecting Fishing Clubs and Communities** - This project has two parts: Part 1 is the delivery of an annual state conference discussing current projects, research, management and other activities relevant to the recreational fishing community. Part 2 will focus on supporting fishing clubs to adopt and implement outcomes and learnings from the conference to build a strong and lasting club that can provide positive contributions within their community.

**Fishability Map Development and Capacity Building** – This project will help Fishability to develop their programs and services to create fishing opportunities for children and adults living with disabilities. Fishability assists people requiring support to experience the joy of fishing.

**Blue Swimmer Crab Stocking** - The project will develop aquaculture techniques to produce and stock 100,000 larval/juvenile Blue Swimmer Crabs in the metropolitan area.

**Threadfin Salmon Mark and Recapture** - This project will help determine population dynamics of Threadfin Salmon within Roebuck Bay using a community tagging program.

**Fisher Deployed Shark Bite-Off Video Surveys** - Video cameras will be used to identify the species of sharks involved in bite offs and deterrents that emit an electrical field (magnets and electropositive hooks) will be tested to determine their effectiveness as a deterrent method.

## 3.2 recreational fishing initiatives fund continued

### 3.2.2 community grant scheme

Recfishwest has provided funding to community based groups for projects to enhance recreational fishing through the Recfishwest Community Grant Scheme. These grants are available to a maximum of \$8,000, for each applicant with preference given to projects less than \$5,000 and to projects from a wide range of regions.

Since 2011, Recfishwest has provided funding through the Recfishwest Community Grant Scheme to nearly 80 projects totalling over \$300,000. This scheme is funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and is supported by Recfishwest and the Western Australian Department of Fisheries.

Round 6 of Recfishwest's Community Grant Scheme Funding has been granted to the following projects:

Recipient 2016	Project Funded	Budget
Australian Angling Association	Dry casting safety equipment & measuring device	\$2,144
Albany Boating & Offshore Fishing Club	Community Fun Fishing Clinic	\$2,150
Blue Water Freediver's Assoc	Freedive Spearfishing Safety Training	\$4,900
Breast Cancer Care (WA)	Letting Go "Purple Fly Fishing & Wellness" weekend	\$6,000
Broome Fishing Club	Fishing Workshops for Women	\$5,000
Exmouth Game Fishing Club	Website Upgrade	\$5,000
Fishability	Risk Management Development Project	\$4,500
Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue	Boat safety	\$2,000
Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue Group	ROIP (Radio over the internet)	\$2,000
Kalbarri Offshore & Angling Club	2016 Kalbarri Kid's Whiting Comp	\$2,500
Melville Amateur Angling Club	2016 Swanfish banners	\$364
Perth Game Fishing Club	Safe & effective game fishing training equipment	\$5,000
Shark Bay Fishing Club	Shark Bay Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct	\$3,500
Town of Port Hedland	Port Hedland Community Fishing Clinics	\$2,000
WA Seabird Rescue	WASR Recreational Anglers brochure	\$1,139
WA Undersea Club	Leadership Initiative	\$5,000
WA Undersea Club	Ebook –guide to spearfishing in WA	\$5,000

## 3.2 recreational fishing initiatives fund continued

### 3.2.3 purple fly fishing

In October 2015 Recfishwest and Breast Cancer Care WA ran a specialised 'Purple Fly Fishing' weekend for clients recovering from breast cancer. The weekend was held in Manjimup on 16-18 October where 19 breast cancer clients, accompanied by support staff from Breast Cancer Care WA, descended on the beautiful surrounds of the South West to partake in a spot of fly fishing.



Funded through a Recfishwest Community Grant, the Purple Fly Fishing weekend aimed to offer these women the opportunity to gain a reprieve from the challenges of breast cancer, while also teaching them the art of fly fishing.

Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland said the weekend offers participants a hands-on introduction to fly fishing and an opportunity to get outdoors while learning a unique form of fishing that can aid in their recovery.



"This weekend provides the opportunity for women affected by breast cancer to develop friendships and support networks with other participants and hopefully catch a few fish as they learn the basics of fly fishing" Dr Rowland said.

Breast Cancer Care WA Chief Executive Officer Zoe McAlpine said Breast Cancer Care WA are so grateful to Recfishwest for this opportunity to provide a wonderful experience for our clients going through breast cancer.

"The chance to get away for the weekend, learn a new skill in fly fishing and to focus purely on themselves and their journey is so valuable" Mrs McAlpine said.

"This year in Western Australia it is expected that over 1,500 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and we aim to be there to support every person diagnosed – thanks to the generosity of Recfishwest and the community this is made possible."



Studies have shown that the casting motion of fly fishing, is similar to recovery exercises prescribed for women who've undergone surgery or radiation treatment.

In addition to the wellbeing benefits of fishing the physical benefits of the gentle casting motion helps to promote soft tissue stretching and improve joint mobility for women recovering from surgery and those managing lymphedema.



Recfishwest have conducted similar fishing clinics in the past (Pink Fly Fishing Clinics) for women affected by breast cancer which have been hugely popular.

The second Purple Fly Fishing weekend has just been completed and the write up of this year's event can

be found in our Broad Cast and on our website.

#### **Additional Information:**

Why purple and fly fishing? Each year in Australia over 13,500 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and one in eight women in Australia will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Breast Cancer Care WA is a Western Australian charity that provides personalised emotional, practical and financial support to people affected by breast cancer. Breast Cancer Care WA receive no government funding and their activities are entirely reliant on the generosity of the Western Australian community. They are famous for the charity event Purple Bra Day, raising funds and awareness for breast cancer clients.

For more on Breast Cancer Care WA: <http://www.breastcancer.org.au/>





## 3.3 habitat and stock enhancement

### 3.3.1 habitat enhancement

#### **South West Artificial Reefs and Reef Vision**

It has now been over three years since the South West Artificial Reefs were deployed off the coasts of Bunbury and Dunsborough. For the last year, the reefs have been monitored using Baited Remote Underwater Video systems (BRUVs) by local recreational fishers. Fishers have recorded 64 different species and over 35,000 individual fish on the reefs.

The reefs have continued to develop above expectations with thick layers of algae, soft corals and other colonising species growing on the modules. A large number of important species have been observed and caught on the artificial reefs including Samson Fish, Pink Snapper, Yellowtail Kingfish, Baldchin Groper, Dhufish and many other species. To look at some of the great footage these dedicated local fishers have collected over the past 12 months visit the SouthWest artificial reef Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWestArtificialReefs/>

#### **Mandurah Artificial Reef**

The Mandurah Artificial Reef was successfully installed on the 17th and 18th of April 2016. The reef consists of thirty, 10 tonne 3m<sup>3</sup> concrete modules. These modules are the same ones used in the SouthWest artificial reef and we are confident in a similar level of success. The reef was installed to provide increased fishing enjoyment and provide access a safe distance from boat ramps. This project was made possible through a strong a partnership with the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club, Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club and the local community.

#### **Metropolitan Fish Towers**

The Metropolitan Fish Towers have been fabricated and the first one is scheduled to be deployed in late 2016 with Commonwealth and State approvals already obtained. The reef is constructed out of a steel frame and each reef will weigh over 50 tonnes. The reefs are 12m high with a footprint of 9.8m x 7.8m. They will be deployed in 42m of water south of Rottnest. The reefs are aimed to improve access to pelagic species such as Tuna and Yellowtail Kingfish.

### 3.3.2 fish aggregation devices (FADs)

Currently, there is one Recfishwest subsurface FAD about 12 nautical miles west of Rottnest. The FADs are designed by Japanese specialist, Okabe, and consist of both surface and sub-surface units to aggregate a range of game species such as tuna, mahi mahi, wahoo and mackerel. A further seven (4 surface, 3 subsurface) FADs will be deployed in the metropolitan area before Christmas. \$555,000.00 has been funded out of the RFIF over the next few years to create a regional state-wide FAD program. Consultation is already underway into the most appropriate areas and work needed to obtain the necessary approvals for this program.

#### **Albany Oyster Reef**

As part of the Albany Oyster Reef restoration project, four new rubble reefs were created in Oyster Harbour. The reefs have been seeded with approximately two thousand hatchery reared juvenile oysters. Early monitoring of the reefs has already found several species of fish utilising this new habitat, including popular target species black bream and skipjack trevally. The reefs will be expanded in 2017 with Phase Two seeing over 400m<sup>2</sup> of oyster reef restored. This improved habitat will benefit fishing in Oyster Harbour.

#### **New Reefs in WA**

In the 2015/16 period several new artificial reefs have been deployed around WA. Subcon Pty Ltd created the Coogee Maritime Trail. The trail consists of the Omeo shipwreck as well as a variety of artificial reef modules and various sculptures. The trail includes snorkelling and diving as well as a land trail.

An underwater interpretative snorkel trail in Jurien Bay that consists of 70 reef ball modules has also been expanded. The Jurien Bay Men's Shed has also deployed reef balls containing people's ashes at this reef site making a fantastic farewell for people who have a great affinity with the ocean. The men's shed approval for 100 more Rest in Reef balls to extend their artificial reef over the next three years.

## 3.3 habitat and stock enhancement continued

### Developing Habitat Enhancement Structures in Western Australia

Recfishwest is continuing to undertake a project investigating the applications and benefits of Habitat Enhancement Structures (HES) through the Fisheries Research Development Corporation. To date, Recfishwest along with Murdoch University have identified the types and uses of HES throughout the world and Australia as well as have discussions with industry and the community and trial cost effective monitoring methods. The project is due for completion in 2017.

### 3.3.3 stock enhancement

#### Western School Prawn (*Metapenaeus dalli*)

From December 2015 to March 2016 a further two million prawns were grown and released in the Swan-Canning Estuary. In the four years since 2012, the Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research along with project partners Recfishwest, the Department of Fisheries and Department of Parks and Wildlife (formerly Swan River Trust) as well as Murdoch University have now released over 4.5 million prawns into the Swan Canning system to help rebuild stock and reinvigorate recreational prawning. Research from Murdoch University has greatly increased the survival rates of restocked prawns. Interestingly Murdoch discovered that the aptly named Western Gobbleguts (*Ostorhinchus rueppellii*) are actually the main predator of prawns and no restocked prawns were found in the more than 200 Blowfish (*Torquigener pleurogramma*) that were sampled.

#### Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*)

Since 2013, over 550,000 Barramundi have been restocked into Lake Kununurra and almost 1,000 in Willie Creek near Broome. With many of these fish now starting to reach size there have been an increasing number of reports of larger fish being caught in Lake Kununurra. Some of the stocked fish are now approaching the 1m mark and the fishing is said to be some of the best in the area. Since the stocking of Willie Creek a tagged fish was caught by a fisher, but not in the usual way. The tagged barramundi was found in the stomach of a cod caught nearby.

#### Mulloway (*Argyrosomus japonicas*)

While no further mulloway have been stocked in this period, mulloway stocking is continuing to be developed through the RFIF. Thirteen large mulloway broodstock were collected from Shark Bay and transported to the ACAAR hatchery facility in the fish transport trailer funded through the Recreational fishing licence fees. These broodstock will be used to produce the next round of mulloway to be restocked as part of a 2015 project looking to build on the success of the 2013 mulloway stocking project.

#### Pink Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*)

After a 2014 pilot project developed a novel egg collection method for Pink Snapper, over 200,000 snapper eggs were collected in two trips in October 2015 in Cockburn Sound. At the end of November 2015, a fish kill in Cockburn Sound saw many fish die including over 700 adult pink snapper. After a strong response from the community, a crowdfunding grow-out period saw the juveniles from the egg collection project be grown out to 30mm. Approximately 45,000 of these fish were then released in Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds (see Snapper Guardians). One of these fish has since been recaptured demonstrating survival of the stocked animals. Recfishwest were pleasantly surprised to receive funding from the state budget to continue the Guardian stocking program for the next two years.

#### Snapper Guardians

Recfishwest was thrilled to be a part of a World First in 2015/16, with the community funded fish stocking program 'Snapper Guardians' allowing the people of WA to roll up their sleeves and contribute to this great conservation initiative.

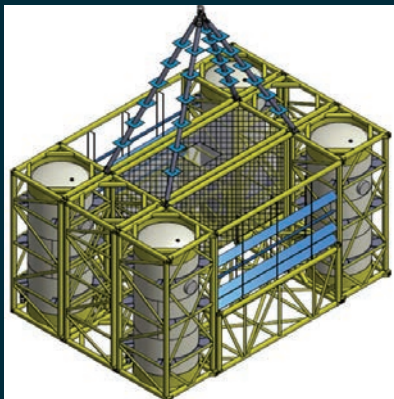
After the tragic fish kill event in Cockburn Sound in November 2015, the people of WA, along with Recfishwest, were presented with an opportunity to help further protect Pink Snapper stocks in metro waters.

Luckily, a previous project (funded through fishing licence money) testing whether it was possible to collect large numbers of fertilised eggs from spawning aggregations had just completed. This project was conducted by the Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR); and resulted in the collection of 100,000 Pink Snapper eggs.









### 3.3 habitat and stock enhancement continued

Following the fish kill the opportunity to rear and release the snapper eggs that had been collected, was an opportunity too good to miss. Recfishwest started a crowd funding campaign to raise the \$25,000 needed to grow these fish to a length of 5cm increasing their chances of survival in the wild.

The \$25,000 required to successfully complete the Snapper Guardian project was achieved within hours of the campaign being launched and a total of \$36,000 was raised through the generosity of the WA community. The community saw great value in making this project a reality and thanks to their support and the support of some great corporate sponsors as well as the innovative work by the team at ACAAR, the Snapper Guardians project was a great success and made headlines around the state and the nation with media outlets giving the project the attention it deserved.

We would also like to thank the contribution of local WA lure company Halco, who came forward and offered their support throughout the program, including donating products for the Snapper Guardian packs. Our other corporate sponsors who threw their support behind Snapper Guardians included:



The community support for this project was outstanding and when the fish were ready to be released over 400 people came to down to Cockburn to be a part of this historic event with everyone given the opportunity to release baby snapper back into the waters of Cockburn Sound.

The release was a buzz of excitement which also included the unveiling of Recfishwest's new fish stocking and transport trailer. The trailer was paid for out of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and will be used to transport both broodstock (adult) and juvenile fish around the state to improve stock enhancement activities. The trailer was used at the event to siphon about 3,000 fish through a clear tube and down the rocks, until the fish were safely released under the water while another 2,000 fish were released by enthusiastic community members. The remaining 45,000 fish were released into well-known nursery grounds in Warnbro Sound. These fish will grow to be a valuable addition to the Cockburn Sound Pink Snapper stock.

To put the release into perspective, in the wild only approximately 50 fish out of the 100,000 eggs that were collected would have survived. The 50,000 fish released as part of this project would normally require about 1.5 billion eggs as survival in the wild is extremely low. The innovative research by the team at ACAAR to achieve WA's first ever Pink Snapper release from the egg stage is an outstanding achievement made possible by the generosity of hundreds of Snapper Guardians.

The Snapper Guardian merchandise was a huge hit with the community with hundreds of T-shirts, beanies and stickers being paraded around at the release. This gave people a real sense of ownership of these new Pink Snapper and what it meant for the sustainability of Cockburn Sound. The Snapper Guardian project has been a great success and clearly demonstrates that the recreational fishing community are champions of fish and fish habitat and we're thrilled with the way the community stepped up and embraced this project.

Read the full Snapper Guardian Story on the Recfishwest website here:

<http://recfishwest.org.au/snapper-guardians/>

Recfishwest is proud to report that in the 2016 WA State Budget, the State Government also saw great value in the Snapper Guardians project and have promised \$300,000 over the next 2 years to continue the program. This will ensure more fish are released back into Cockburn Sound.

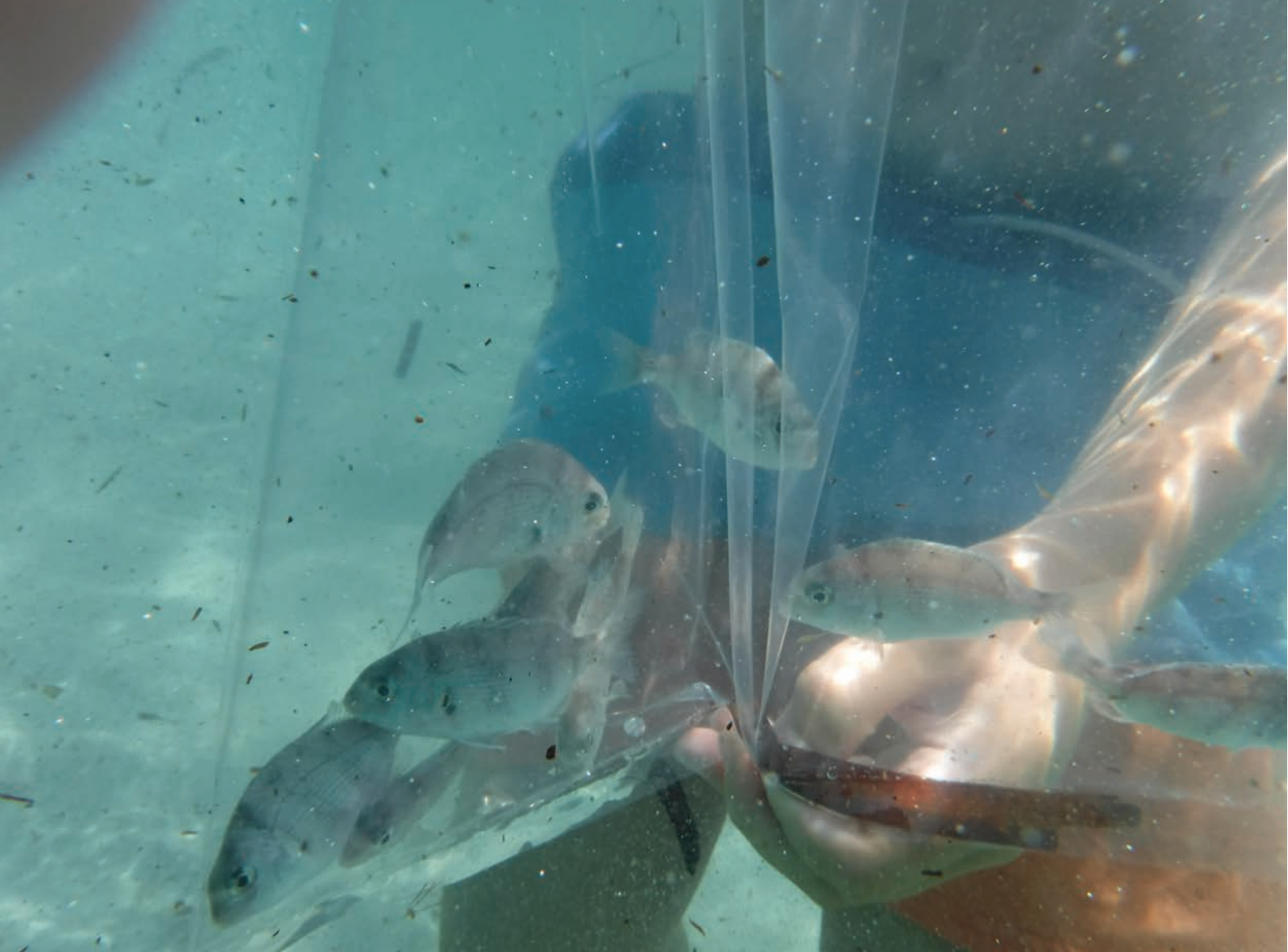
In exciting news one of the released fish was recently captured as part of trawl sampling in a nearby crab fishery proving these fish have survived and are doing well in the wild.



Figure 1 Source: Western Australia State Government

2014		
Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund	Oct	• Egg collection trial begins in snapper spawning period
	Oct – Nov	• Limited eggs collected
	Dec	• Genetic & Fish Marking commence (fish marked on earbone with a dye to identify as different stock to natural fish)
2015		
Cockburn Sound Fish Kill Event	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genetic &amp; Marking research completed</li> <li>• Results show collection technique maintains the genetics of the natural population &amp; fish can be marked at a small size</li> </ul>
	Oct – Nov	• 100,000 Pink Snapper eggs collected to be cultured, marked and released in December
	End of Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 2000 fish wash up from several different species</li> <li>• A large proportion of these deaths are large breeding Pink Snapper (over 700)</li> <li>• Occurred during a closed fishing period instigated by rec fishers to protect vulnerable breeding stock</li> </ul>
	Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snapper Guardian crowdfunding program launched - \$25,000 needed before January 2016</li> <li>• Funds donate will be used to grow out fish caught from egg collection project (above) to increase survival rate</li> <li>• Community show tremendous support and stewardship, donating \$19,000 on first day</li> <li>• Target of \$25,000 met in 36 hours</li> </ul>
2016		
Snapper Guardians	Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of \$35,947 donated (excess will be used for future Pink Snapper restocking)</li> <li>• Fish earbones (otoliths) marked with non-toxic dye for future identification</li> </ul>
	Jan/Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish reached target size of 40mm</li> <li>• Fish released larger have a much better chance of surviving</li> </ul>
	Feb	• Thousands of Pink Snapper juveniles released by recreational fishing community









## 3.4 fishing safety

### 3.4.1 rock fishing safety progress report

Recfishwest has been involved in the Rock Fishing Safety Steering Committee since April 2013. The committee oversees the state-wide Rock Fishing Safety Strategy after the Government of Western Australia committed funding for a three year initiative aimed at enhancing public safety for fishers.

The initial three year funding has concluded and has been a great success with the implementation and development of the Rock Fishing Safety Strategy (RFSS). The RFSS required an ongoing identification and assessment of additional rock fishing locations followed by the installation of equipment at the appropriate locations.

In the past 12 months Recfishwest has sent out an additional 49 angel rings, this includes 14 that have been installed in Denmark, Kalbarri, Dirk Hartog Island and Albany, with another 20 to be installed in the South West region and 7 to be installed in Albany in the coming months. Replacements and spares have also been sent to Shires and Department of Parks and Wildlife offices in regional areas.

The number of lifejackets available has jumped up to 150 with an additional 45 jackets being sent out this year. The number of stores participating in the Life Jacket Loan Scheme has also increased with an additional five locations, making the jackets available in 21 stores state-wide.

Recfishwest has received positive feedback from community partners, local communities, land managers, government agencies and fishers themselves and we look forward to continuing these partnerships to grow public awareness around the dangers of fishing from the rocks. Recfishwest has also had the opportunity to work with regional rock fishing committees that have formed to assist in education, increasing public awareness, attitudinal and behavioural change as well as the installation of safety equipment.

The current Rock Fishing Safety Strategy has identified that a continued state-wide effort aimed at increasing public awareness and maintenance of safety infrastructure is necessary to minimise the risk of rock fishing incidents and fatalities.

Recfishwest has applied for an additional three years of funding from the State Government.





# Statewide Rock Fishing Safety Campaign 2014 - 2016



## Statewide

- Fish and Survive campaign, website, video, radio
- Focus on Migrant Communities
- 5000 Multi-lingual Fliers
- 10 Languages
- Adverts in Chinese Newspapers
- Fishing Safety and Community Engagement Officer Employed at Recfishwest
- 32,000 Rock Fishing Safety Fliers Distributed Statewide
- TV Advertising Featuring Fishing Identity Rex Hunt
- Campaign Messages Featured on TV programs including:
  - Destinations WA
  - IFISH
- Received Highly Commended Award at ICCWA awards 2014

## Carnarvon and Quobba Station

- 12 Loan Life Jackets Available

## Shark Bay

- 7 Angel Rings - 2015
- 20 Loan Life Jackets Available
- 3 Angel Rings Dirk Hartog Island - 2016

## Kalbarri

- 4 Angel Rings - 2016
- 5 Loan life jackets

## Margaret River/Busselton

- 5 Loan Life Jackets Available
- Primary and Secondary School Education 2013/14/15
- Rock Anchor Points

## Augusta

- 8 Loan Life Jackets Available
- Primary and Secondary School Education
- Rock Anchor Points
- 20 Angel Rings Scheduled for 2016

## Albany/Denmark

- 6 Rock Anchor Points - 2013
- 2 Angel Rings Albany - 2015, additional 8 supplied 2016
- 5 Angel Rings supplied Denmark 2015
- Silent Sentry Float System - Refurbished 2013
- 2 'Rock Fishing is Dangerous' signs installed at Salmon Holes
- Annual Easter Safety Campaign in Albany (Salmon Holes) 2015/16
- 5 Lifejacket Loan Stores - 50 Jackets Available
- 20 life jackets supplied to Albany and Katanning Migrant Resource Centers
- Emergency telephone installed 2016
- 4 Angel Rings installed in Denmark 2016

## Esperance/Hopetoun/Duke of Orleans

- 30 Rock Anchor Points - 2014
- 10 Angel Rings
- Primary and Secondary School Education 2014/15
- Community Fishing and Safety Event - 2015
- 8 Loan Lifejackets Available 2015
- Rock fishing Safety Stand - Esperance Show 2014/15
- 4 Lifejacket Loan Stores - 20 Jackets Available

## Bremer Bay

- 5 Loan Life Jackets Available

Don't put your life on the line.

A rock fishing safety message from Recfishwest

- Wear a life jacket
- Never fish alone
- Observe first, fish later
- Wear appropriate footwear

www.recfishwest.org.au

90-12-3322

RECfishwest

RECREATION FOR WEST



0 360 Kilometers

## 3.4 fishing safety continued

### 3.4.2 fish and survive

In December 2015 Recfishwest launched Western Australia's biggest ever Fishing Safety Campaign 'Fish and Survive'. With the help of the Bee Gees catchy tune, new lyrics focused on safety and animated videos the public are being asked to get involved.

Recfishwest put the call out to the WA fishing community to assist in saving lives by sharing campaign material with their family, friends and fellow fishers.

The key driver behind 'Fish and Survive' is to ensure all rec fishers return home to their families safely at the end of a day's fishing.

The 'Fish and Survive' campaign supports all the hard work carried out by the community in the rock fishing safety space, including the roll-out of safety equipment installations, life jacket loan schemes and ongoing education activities.

#### **fishandsurvive.org.au**

This website is used to promote safety and to educate fishers on safety. It is a one stop shop for them to access safety information and helpful tips. Recfishwest has identified the most appropriate safety gear and precautionary actions needed for all types of fishing, whether that be from the rocks, from a boat, catching abalone or spearfishing.

#### **fishandsurvive.com.au**

The online shop has been successful in its first year of operation. People are able to purchase life jackets and other safety equipment at an affordable price. Recfishwest has committed to putting all profits back into fishing safety within the West Australian community. The purpose of the shop is to get more people in life jackets and encourage a behavioural change with fishers around safety on or near the water. Recfishwest looks forward to expanding the store and making more products available.



## 3.5 recfishwest communications

### 3.5.1 in the community

Recfishwest made its way across Western Australia to a number of great community events in the past year. Community events play an integral role in building partnerships and increasing participation while adding social value to the hundreds of thousands who make up WA's recreational fishing community.

Below is a list of Recfishwest's movements across WA in the past 12 months:

#### **South Coast**

- Recfishwest SunSmart Southern Fishing Clinic Tour (Bremer Bay, Albany, Denmark, Walpole)
- Esperance Offshore Classic - Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club
- Rock Fishing Safety Educational School Visits - South East Coast Recreational Fishing Council
- Esperance Show – Rock Fishing Safety Display - South East Coast Recreational Fishing Council
- Fishers For Fish Habitat Forum – Albany
- Salmon Holes Emergency Telephones Installation - Albany

#### **South West**

- Recfishwest SunSmart Southern Fishing Clinic Tour (Augusta, Margaret River, Dunsborough)
- Mandalay Holiday Resort Family Fishing Competition (Busselton)
- Rock Fishing Safety Educational School Visits – Ray Walker
- Industry Tackle Series (Education, Engagement, Partnerships)
- Artificial Reef and Reef Vision Citizen Science Seminars



## 3.5 recfishwest communications continued

### Perth Metro/ Mandurah

- Swanfish
- Mandurah Boat Show
- Tackle HQ Open Day
- Fishability Day
- Dawesville Cut Clean Up (Clean Up Australia Day)
- Peel Harvey Crab MSC Sustainability Certification
- Recfishwest SunSmart School Fishing Clinics
- Fishing Club and Community Club Presentations



### Mid West

- Geraldton Fisherkid Community Classic
- Geraldton Caravan and Camping Show
- Kalbarri Offshore Classic
- Kalbarri Offshore Angling Club - Kalbarri Kids Whiting Competition

### Gascoyne

- Gamex Citizen Science and Research
- Gamex Community Fishing Clinics
- Carnarfin Fishing Competition
- Carnarvon Community Meetings
- Shark Bay Pink Snapper Community Meetings

### Pilbara

- Dampier Classic (King Bay Fishing Club)
- Port Hedland Community Fishing Classic

### Kimberley

- Girls Gone Fishing Support and Community Grant
- Broome Billfish Classic
- Barramundi Releases at Willie Creek



### 3.5.2 communications

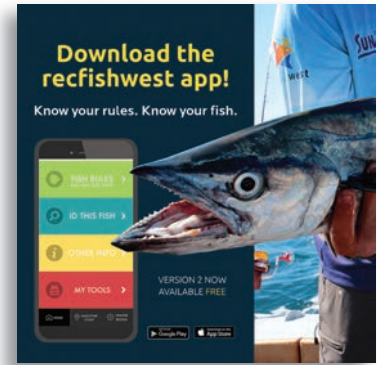
Recfishwest Communications team had a big year delivering WA's most up to date fishing information to our growing audiences, not only in WA but nationally and internationally as well. A number of new communication platforms were launched, in an effort to ensure all West Aussies have access to trustworthy and relevant information that is essential in making fishing better.



### 3.5 recfishwest communications continued

#### Recfishwest App

In May 2016, Recfishwest launched WA's first ever Fishing Rules Smart Phone Application. After many years of contemplation and conversations with government about the need for a phone App, Recfishwest decided that we could not wait any longer and committed to developing the App on our own. Recfishwest developed, built, tested and finally released this App as a free tool for the WA community.



The App is available on iPhone and Android phones and has the benefit of being accessed when the fisher is out of internet or phone range. The App acts as a key sustainability tool for fishers and tourists providing them with the confidence to catch, identify and make the decision of whether to keep or release their catch.

Recfishwest has received great feedback about the App and we are glad to hear that it has enhanced the fishing experiences of the people who have downloaded it.

Key features of the App include:

- 202 most common marine and freshwater recreationally caught species across all regions of WA (fish, crustaceans and cephalopods).
- All of the fishing rules and additional information on fishing licences, seasons, equipment requirements plus much more.
- Edibility rating for each fish.
- Identification Tool – An easy to use three step beginners guide to identifying your catch.
- Handy links to our I Love Fishing website that enables people to become the complete fisher and learn new skills that will make their fishing better.
- Ability for the App to be used outside of internet service or phone reception.

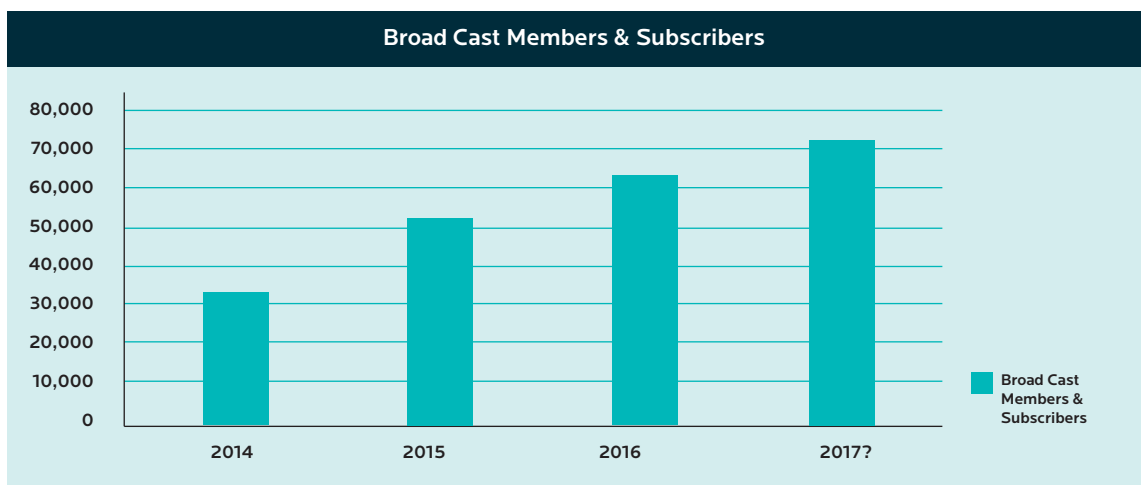
The Recfishwest App has had over 17,000 downloads and was the top ranking Free Sports App in Australia for the first week after launching and remains WA's most versatile tool for ensuring fishers do the right thing while enhancing their fishing experiences.

Version 2 of the App is under development in our effort to make your fishing better.

#### Broad Cast

Recfishwest's Broad Cast E-Newsletter still remains the marquee communication platform for the public to keep up to date with state-wide issues affecting their fishing. Broad Cast has grown significantly, with the monthly publication now being sent to over 63,000 people, up from 52,000 the previous year.

We've reported on some milestone achievements over the past 12 months namely: Snapper Guardians and the Cockburn Sound Fish Kill event, Mandurah's new Artificial Reef, our new Fish and Survive campaign, the Swan River Prawn stocking program, the Southern Community Tour sponsored by Healthway and the success of regional Fishing Club events.

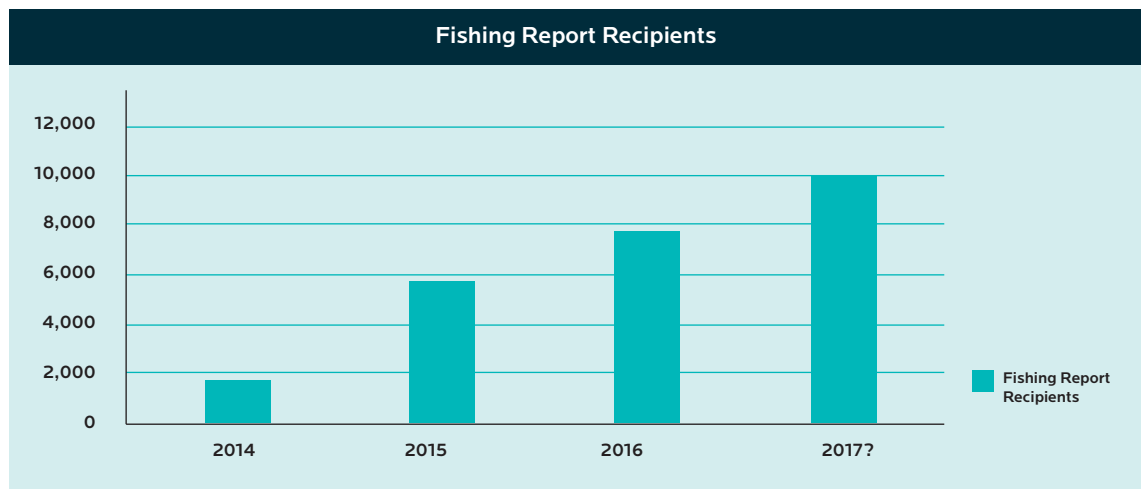


## 3.5 recfishwest communications continued

### Fishing Reports

Recfishwest's fishing reports are an integral part of our communications with some of our most engaged audiences receiving their weekly dose of what's biting around WA. Not only does the fishing report bring value to both novice and avid fishers, it gives fishers an avenue to send in their catch to be showcased to the WA fishing public.

Over 7,500 people have subscribed to receive their weekly fishing reports with many relying on getting their copy to help plan their weekend's fishing adventures.



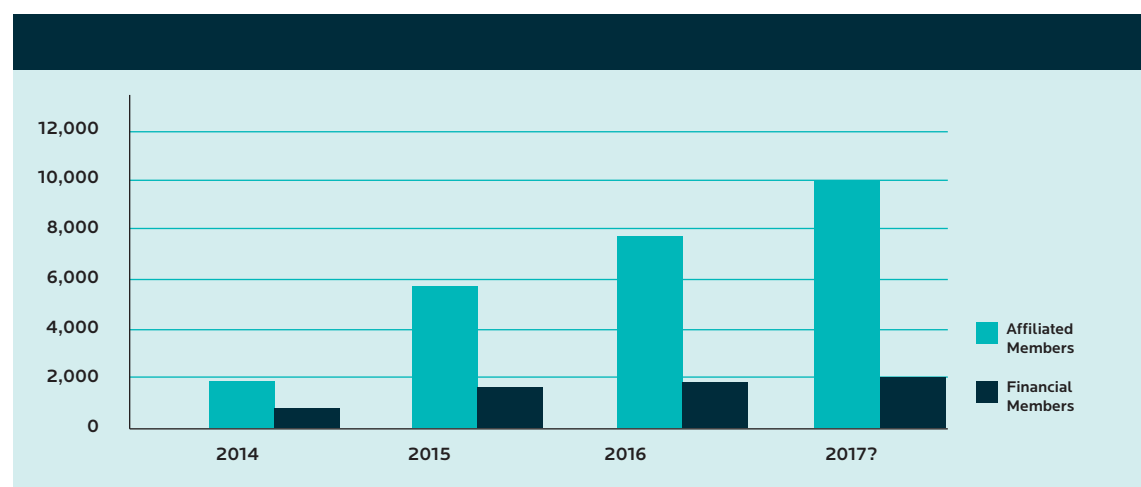
### Social Media

Recfishwest have been active in the Social Media space for some time now with fishers engaging with new technologies. Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Instagram are a daily tool we use to inform the community and our partners about important news and information worthy of sharing and gaining feedback and engagement.

We now share our information with over 12,500 followers on Facebook, 1,600 on Instagram and over 630 on Twitter. We've also seen our Youtube channel being accessed for quality fishing videos with total video views totalling some 66,000.

### 3.5.3 membership report

Recfishwest continues to experience strong membership growth. There was a 19% increase in premium (financial) memberships with a total of 1,667 premium members now on the register. Memberships (free membership) increased by 36% from 5,702 to 7,748 members. Recfishwest's Membership Officer continues to update the membership database and efforts are being invested to ensure continued membership growth and retention in 2017.









### 4.1 regional policy officer's report

Recfishwest has had another successful year of engaging with recreational fishers in regional WA. Many new and exciting initiatives that benefit recreational fishing have created a very positive attitude from regional fishers.

The two artificial reefs deployed in April 2013 are continuing to turn up prize catches for fishers in Geographe Bay whilst the newly deployed Mandurah artificial reef is proving to be a fantastic focal point for small boat fishers in the Peel region. The Geographe Bay reefs have now turned up 65 different species.

Broome fishers continue to experience unprecedented numbers of both Blue and King Threadfin Salmon in Roebuck Bay after the state government purchased the commercial gillnet licence which was operating in the area. Over 500,000 Barramundi have been stocked into Lake Kununurra, with the largest fish now being captured at over a meter in length.

Loss of fishing access due to resource development continues to be an issue in the Northwest. Where possible, Recfishwest works with the proponents of these developments to ensure that loss of access is kept to a minimum, as well as requesting suitable offsets when appropriate. Resource companies continue to respond positively to these requests with surveying activities continually being shifted so as not to clash with major fishing tournaments.

Recfishwest has recently been in talks with oil and gas companies and regulators who are planning on decommission parts of their offshore infrastructure in an attempt to turn some of these platforms into artificial reefs. Although still early in the conversation, Recfishwest will continue to work towards an outcome which we believe will be of huge benefit to the community.

Perhaps one of the most challenging aspects for Recfishwest is deciding which issues to tackle given the confines of time and resources. On top of this, there are many resource sharing challenges between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors throughout the state, Blue Swimmer Crabs in Carnarvon, Cockburn Sound and Peel Harvey Estuary, demersal scalefish in the midwest and southwest, estuarine finfish along the south coast and spatial separation around urban areas. Recfishwest is working closely with local fishers to ensure that the recreational sector gets a fair and reasonable share of these community owned fisheries resources.

The most significant resource sharing issue of 2016 centered on a proposal from the commercial fishing sector to trial the use of fish traps in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish fishery. This caused significant concern in the community of Carnarvon and Recfishwest worked diligently to represent the view of the community to Government. This culminated in the decision by the Government not to support the use of traps in this fishery.

Recreational fishing continues to drive local economies, especially during the many fishing tournaments and events across the state. Business owners in centres such as Karratha, Dampier, Exmouth and Broome, whose biggest annual fishing events attract hundreds of visitors to their towns report significant increases in trade and look forward to these events each year. In an effort to quantify some of this spending, Recfishwest, in partnership with renowned researcher Julian Pepperell, undertook an economic study of fishers who attended Gamex this year. Results from this study will be available by the end of the year.

Recfishwest is proud to represent the fishing community at popular events as these, as well as less well known community events such as the Kalbarri Kids Whiting Competition, the Albany Southern Ocean Spectacular, the Dampier Classic and the Esperance Offshore Classic.

Regional fishing clubs continue to invest in local youth programs with many running fishing clinics or competitions aimed at kids throughout the year. Recfishwest supports these clubs in this endeavour by providing instructors and prizes for these events. The Geraldton and Districts Offshore Fishing Club ran their second Fisherkid Community Classic this year with 35 kids turning up to enjoy the fishing that Geraldton has to offer. The Kalbarri Offshore and Angling Club continues to lead the way in this space with their annual Kids Whiting Competition attracting over 500 kids each year!

There are plenty of good things in store for regional fishing communities, with Recfishwest currently developing a state-wide strategy for habitat enhancement in regional areas. This will include artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices for major regional centres. A number of funding applications for artificial reefs in regional areas were received as part of this year's Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) round of funding and funding from a previous RFIF round will be used to develop a state-wide FAD program over the next few years.

The future of fishing is bright for regional WA, and Recfishwest looks forward to continuing to drive exciting new fishing opportunities.

## 4.2 regional priorities

### Northern

- **Shark Depredation** - Keep the community informed of the current and planned projects that could assist this issue along with clear timelines for these projects.
- **Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Harvest Strategy** – Ensuring social aspects are captured as part of this strategy.
- **Blue Swimmer Crab access in Carnarvon** – Resolve the community's long standing proposal for equitable access to Blue Swimmer Crabs close to Carnarvon.
- **Gascoyne Oceanic Pink Snapper** - Seek an update on the oceanic stocks of Pink Snapper in the Gascoyne Region and play an active part in deciding proposed management options.
- **Barramundi Stocking** - Seek support for assessment of social impact of stocking Lake Kununurra.
- **Ningaloo Marine Park** - Address inequities around taking fish by spear.

### Southern

- **Dhufish boat limit increase**- Seek boat limit increase following upcoming stock assessment.
- **Herring** – Seek recovery plan containing defined limits, thresholds and targets along with defined management actions developed. Advocate for G-Trap fishery to be permanently removed.
- **Peel Harvey Whiting** - Resolve issues around Harvest Strategy.
- **Blue Swimmer Crab**
  - South-West Crab management review – Ensure review of Blue Swimmer Crabs undertaken.
  - Development of Cockburn Sound Crab Recovery plan containing defined limits, thresholds and targets along with defined management actions.
  - Advocate for the removal of the Mandurah to Bunbury developing Crab Fishery.
- **Freshwater** - Develop a process for assessing all rivers for stocking of trout.
- **Bremer Bay Scallop Trawl Fishery** – Advocate for spatial separation around Bremer Bay.
- **Marron** - Finalise a Marron translocation process that would allow community groups to proactively protect this vital community asset.
- **Swan River Prawn rules** – Update management arrangements in line with community expectations.

### State-wide

- Rationalisation of estuarine fisheries and their management.
- State-wide recreational netting review.
- Progression of spatial separation between commercial and recreational fishers, including:
  - Bremer Bay trawl fishery.
  - Carnarvon crab commercial prohibition area.
  - Rock Lobster areas.
  - Demersal Gillnet and wet line areas around Kalbarri, Midwest and Capes regions.
  - Mackerel fishery around Broome.

### 5.1 fishing clinic co-ordinator's report



Recfishwest conducted a total of 43 fishing clinics with over 1,544 participants during 2015/2016. This total includes 24 regional clinics and 19 metropolitan clinics (school and community groups).

Community fishing clinics and events for 2015/2016 included:

- **Recfishwest Southern Tour** – Recfishwest, along with local fishing clubs, conducted a Southern Tour during January 2016. Key messages including fish handling, catch and release and how to cast, with prizes given for naming the five SunSmart tips. A total of over 500 children were reached during this summer tour. The Southern Tour this summer visited Bremer Bay, Albany, Denmark, Walpole, Augusta, Dunsborough and Busselton.
- **Bremer Bay** – Recfishwest recently facilitated the 13th annual Recfishwest SunSmart Fishing Clinic during the January school holidays with approximately 34 children. These clinics are an annual event which local children as well as children from the surrounding communities of Jerramungup and Wellstead participating.
- **Mandalay Beach Resort** – Recfishwest assisted at the 7th Annual Mandalay Beach Resort Fishing Competition Thursday 21 January on the beachfront. Registrations numbered 243 with 172 children among the keen fishers. Total number of participants and spectators on the beach was approximately 500. This has been the single biggest fishing event in the state so far and we look forward to being involved into the future. The aim was to encourage participation and educate families about recreational fishing practices and catch care.
- **Swanfish** – Recfishwest assisted with the 33rd annual family fishing event held on the banks of the Swan River with registered number of participants almost reaching 500. A SunSmart sunscreen station was provided for participants close to the registration tent and a kids casting activity was enjoyed by those who didn't compete in the Swanfish main event.
- **City of Mandurah & Mandurah Offshore Fishing & Sailing Club (MOFSC)** - During the April 2016 school holidays, the City of Mandurah, jointly with MOFSC co-hosted a series of fishing clinics for local children over three days. Delivery of the SunSmart message was given to the 194 participants plus organisers of this event along with prizes and giveaways such as hats and water bottles with co-branding of Recfishwest and SunSmart.
- **Carnarfin**- Recfishwest provided free sunscreen, giveaways co-branded with the Recfishwest and SunSmart logos to participants. The local fishing club and Lions Club run fishing clinics for families and children each year with the assistance of Recfishwest. All families in the community are encouraged to participate in this very popular event. Fishing is promoted as a healthy and fun activity for the whole family to enjoy. The SunSmart message is promoted throughout the event.
- **Geraldton Fisherkid Classic** – The Geraldton Fisherkid Classic ran for a second time in the July 2016 school holidays. The 'Catch, Click and Release' event has proven to be very popular with the local kids. There was a slight decline in numbers from the previous year, but there were still 35 children participating in the event. The Geraldton and Districts Offshore Fishing Club are fantastic hosts and look forward to continuing the annual event in the future.
- **Create Foundation** – is a group of young children who live out of home, including foster care and residential care. A community fishing clinic was held for this group of children and young adults and for the majority it was the first time they had been fishing and a good reason we look forward to working with the Create Foundation into the future. The SunSmart message was relayed along with co-branded promotional items handed out to the group.

I would like to thank the excellent support of our fishing clinic instructors Kim Burton, Craig Bibra, Ian Sewell, Alan Guthrie, Adam Vegvary, Bec Griffiths and Kevin Murphy. A big thank you is also necessary for the fishing clubs that have put in time and effort to host and help run the clinics. Thank you again to Recfishwest staff who also helped out with the clinics during the year. With their help, they enable Recfishwest to continue to offer these successful fishing clinics to the children of Western Australia.

**Bronte Nardi**

Fishing Clinic Co-ordinator



## 5.2 recfishwest fishing clinic instructors



### **Craig Bibra**

Craig has enjoyed recreational fishing for most of his life. In the late 1990's he decided to give something back to the passion he loved and started volunteering with the Department of Fisheries. He spent time on the Boards of the Metropolitan and Exmouth Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees and Recfishwest. In 2000 Craig joined the Department of Fisheries as a Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer (VFLO) and helped with the everyday management of the program in addition to being the south metropolitan patrol leader. It was in this role that Craig was trained and conducted fishing clinics for the Department of Fisheries. While the chairman of the Recfishwest Communications Sub-committee, Craig and fellow VFLO, Kim Burton, established the Recfishwest Fishing Clinic Program. In 2005 with Mark Pagano, the Recfishwest Fishing Clinic trailer was designed and manufactured to extend Fishing Clinics to regional Western Australia. Twelve years on and Craig remains a senior fishing clinic instructor with Recfishwest and is passionate about the messages of sustainability and safety that he and his fellow volunteers teach.



### **Kim Burton**

Kim became hooked on fishing as a seven year old and has fished almost every coastal area between Augusta and Broome. His passion is rock fishing but Kim has owned a boat since his early twenties. He is a keen free diver, chasing crabs and Western Rock Lobster over the summer months.

Kim joined the VFLO program in 1993 and was a foundation member. In his time with the VFLO's, Kim instigated the Cockburn Sound Snapper Research that led to the seasonal closure protecting the spawning aggregations of Snapper in the late '90's. He is also passionate about Tailor fishing and has been involved in Tailor tagging/research at Point Walter for twenty years. Kim's log book records from hundreds of Tailor fishing trips offshore helped shape the management for this iconic species.

After over eleven years with the VFLO program he moved on and joined close friend Craig Bibra in growing the Recfishwest Fishing Clinics. After more than 11 years of running Recfishwest Fishing Clinics he still has a burning passion to give kids the opportunity to fish and introduce them to the sport of fishing as well as help refine the skills of those that do fish.

He had participated in Woodside/Recfishwest Northern Tour Fishing Clinics from their inception in 2005 until 2014.



### **Bec Griffiths**

Bec is an Environmental Officer and qualified trainer. The marine environment is her passion and has guided her studies and career.

In 2005 she joined the Department of Fisheries Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officer program conducting fishing clinics, helping with research and education patrols. Becky later joined the Department in 2007 as a Fisheries and Marine Officer, before taking up her current role and moving into the Environment portfolio as an Environmental Officer.

More than 10 years on she continues to volunteer each year with the Fisheries research programs. As one of the more recent additions to the Recfishwest team, Bec is yet again able to pass on her passion for the water and environment to others.



### **Alan Guthrie**

Alan first started fishing as a five year old from a jetty in Bahrain, an island in the Persian Gulf. When his parents returned home to Western Australia and lived in Attadale, his love for fishing grew and he has many fond memories of catching Tailor and Cobbler from the Point Walter jetty and sand bar.

In July 2007, Alan met Craig Bibra at the Education Expo held at the Claremont showgrounds. Craig was there promoting Recfishwest Fishing Clinics and Alan asked how he could help out with volunteering as he had just sold his business and now had spare time on his side. Later that year, after an induction with Recfishwest, Alan became a Fishing Clinic Instructor.

Alan enjoys helping with the fishing clinics and especially likes seeing the joy on the faces of the participants when they catch their first fish. He encourages children to get out and fish, not only as fun activity but also as a chance to spend quality time with their parents or grandparents.

## 5.2 recfishwest fishing clinic instructors continued



### Kevin Murphy

Fishing has been a passion of Kevin's most of his life. He joined a shore based fishing club at the age of 17.

He has enjoyed fishing many locations throughout Western Australia. Kevin started boating in his later years after joining the Marmion Angling Aquatic Club. He is presently the Captain of the Angling and Sports section. He has also spent a few years involved with the Australian Angling Association.

These days Kevin is semi-retired and is pleased to be able to take the time to give back to the community with his angling skills and has recently joined Recfishwest as a fishing clinic instructor.



### Adam Vegvary

Adam has a passion for land based fishing that started at a very early age. Adam can often be found fishing from a rock wall during a storm, flicking plastics for Flathead in the river or chasing Squid from his kayak.

Adam has always been happy to volunteer his time to help others and with two sons he spends a lot of his time as an assistance coach with the South Coogee Saints Football Club in the winter and as a junior athletics coach for Phoenix Park during the summer.

Adam was first introduced to the Recfishwest Fishing Clinics through friend and fellow instructor Kim Burton. Adam was keen to help educate young people in safe and sustainable fishing practices and trained as an instructor in 2010. He has been involved in running Recfishwest Fishing Clinics across the metropolitan area including Rottnest Island and in 2013 was part of the team travelling on the Northern Tour.



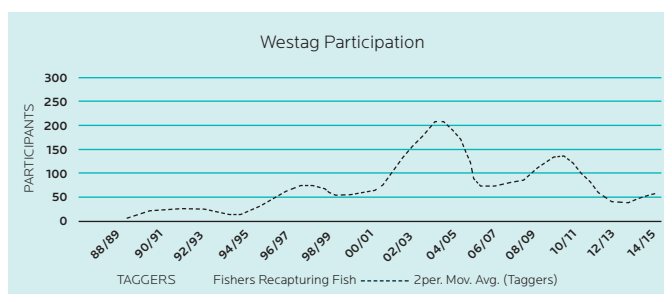
### ANSA Western Australia

Westag: Our tagging program is undergoing some major changes with smartphone apps coming soon. A small extract from the full report by Bill Sawynok from info-fish is listed below.

Westag commenced in 1998-99 managed by ANSA WA. Westag adopted the Infofish database in 2011 and Infofish has provided technical support since then. In 2014 Infofish ran a Citizen Science workshop in conjunction with Westag in Perth looking to provide a more coordinated approach to citizen science and tagging. A report titled "Developing a Citizen Science Culture among Western Australian Recreational Fishers" is available outlining the outcomes from the workshop.

Westag tagging and fishing trip highlights for the year were:

- A total of over 1,040 taggers have now participated in Westag and 870 fishers have reported the recapture of a tagged fish
- Total tagged fish in the database is now over 36,600 and over 1,320 recaptures
- Key species tagged with recapture rates were Samsonfish 10,060 (2.5%), Barramundi 4,080 (3.4%), Mangrove Jack 3,950 (3.1%), West Australian Dhufish 2,000 (9.5%) and Sailfish 1,880 (0.1%).
- A total of 1,040 taggers have participated in Westag having tagged fish since 1988-89.



In 2015-16 there were 58 participants that tagged at least one fish. There have also been 870 fishers that have reported a recapture of a tagged fish. Numbers participating in Westag peaked from 2004-05 to 2005-06 where over 100 taggers tagged fish each year. There were also over 150 taggers in 2010-11. A full report is available through the web site [www.ansawa.org.au](http://www.ansawa.org.au)

As the challenge and pursuit of records has diminished the membership has taken on board the need for our work in the field of Citizen Science and much useful information is collected.

### Juniors

The organisations involvement with clubs and the promotion of junior anglers is ongoing and we are again proud to be associated with the Kalbarri Angling Offshore Club children's whiting classic during the September/October holidays.

### Old Timers

Some may remember the old West Coast Sportfishing Club? Well it's up and running on Facebook with some interesting photos of very early days up North. These old timers were the commencement of ANSA in WA.

### Steve Wiseman

ANSA WA President

## BOATING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Background

Since 2011 the relationship between Boating Industry Association (BIAWA) and Recfishwest has strengthened, bringing with it additional benefits to all our members that now receive regular newsletters and recreational fishing information.

The relocation of our office to the WA Recreational Water Sports Centre at 1 Camfield Drive, Burswood has expanded our facilities to now include the combination of riverside grounds and foreshore with an up to date fully catered function centre and board rooms that have been utilised by Recfishwest groups to meet.



## Working In Collaboration With Recfishwest

BLAWA are involved in the outcomes of any planning and developments that are projected through Recfishwest and Department of Fisheries. Marine Tourism WA (Charter Boat Association) also has a voice within the groups. The success of the relationship between Recfishwest and BLAWA augurs well for the work that still needs to be done on the management plans for each of the regions. In addition to Commonwealth activities, the BLAWA sits, along with Recfishwest, on the State Committee which provides advice regarding marine parks and has benefited from the leadership shown by Recfishwest in this forum as well.

BLA WA is in support of Recfishwest and works to ensure that our members are in touch with the work being undertaken by Recfishwest.

We commend Recfishwest management and staff on the assistance they have provided with events such as Boat Shows and the Rottne Convoys as we work together in our joint commitment to the public in their recreational boating and fishing activities.

### Mike Beanland

President

## Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia (BFWA)

BFWA membership currently stands at 68 as we are at the back end of our annual membership renewal process. Membership is made up of a cross section of breath hold divers interested primarily in the spearing of pelagic and demersal fish up and down the West Australia coast. Many of our members are also keen underwater breath hold photographers spending many dollars on top of the line photography equipment in addition to their normal spearfishing gear.

On any given weekend you may find a BFWA club member shore diving around the Albany area, collecting crayfish from the reefs around Rottne (in season of course), burleying a dropoff at the Abrolhos Islands in the hope of a Wahoo or Spanish Mackerel appearing out of the gloom to making a weekend run up to Exmouth for a day's diving before driving back to Perth in time for work on a Monday.

The club welcomes new members and provides existing and new members with a forum to educate each other around diver safety and keep up to date with relevant fisheries and environmental changes. However first and foremost create a culture of safety awareness and the sharing of spearing knowledge.

To this end the club was fortunate to obtain a Recfishwest (RFW) Grant during the 2015/16 year that allowed us to heavily subsidise club members to attend a Stage A Freediving Safety course with Apnea Australia and members to also complete the Stage B, more advanced Freediving course also with Apnea Australia.

These courses have proved invaluable to those who attended. Conditions of these members being subsidised, has been for them to provide leadership by making themselves available to any other members who have had questions about safety and techniques to do with freediving preparation, training, the effects of spearfishing and freediving on the body, what and how things can go wrong etc. These members have also held information sessions at club meets to relay to those attending what they learnt from their course.

The ongoing education and training that these trained members can provide to newer club members is absolutely invaluable and something we wouldn't have been able to offer with such numbers if we hadn't received a RFW Grant in the first place.

In the last Grant period we again secured one of the RFW Small Grants to assist with the design, build and manufacture of our own "Offshore Safety Float". This safety project has been aimed at not only spearos but also the general boating public.

I am proud to say that after over 18 months in the works we now have now rolled out a number of these floats to club members. These new Offshore Safety Floats are designed to hold all your safety gear in the one place and are able to be towed along by the spearo when they are many miles offshore, so that should they become separated from their boat they have a better chance of being found and survive.

The float has also been designed to double for use as a spearing float with a burley chain and flasher hanging off the unit. We have also designed to withstand being submerged to depth. In testing, these floats have shown that they are capable of being submerged to IP67 standards and remain water tight, protecting the contents.



## 6. association reports continued

We are looking forward to making these Offshore Safety Floats available to the general public very shortly.

The club has held several events for Members this year with our first of the season being our annual Crayfish Competition towards the end of November 2015 with a record number of Members attending. We then ran a club weekend away "down south" in February 2015. Based out of Hamelin Bay, Members dived between there and Augusta to catch some great fish and bring back some tasty shellfish to cook up over the BBQ that night.

It really is a testament to how well our local fisheries are managed when the sole group that dived the Augusta area told stories of how they lost count of the number of Blue Groper and WA Dhufish they encountered.

Our annual Pelagic Comp was held in March 2016. This proved a very challenging event as the water temps were quite unseasonably cold for this time of year so participants struggled for quality fish. However, one member was still lucky enough to land a monster 29.5kg Spanish Mackerel in these trying conditions.

Going forward our club focus will be on the sharing and discussing of all things safety with our divers and promoting our new and unique Offshore Safety Float. Our hopes for 2017 would be to see more new members join BFWA and in turn RFW where we can continue to share knowledge and safety amongst our fellow spearos.

### **Julian Boland**

Secretary

### **Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc (WATFAA)**

Again the New Year finds our Association in a good state both financially and socially due to the diligent effort of the WATFAA Council and general members. Membership numbers are stable, with many prospective members making enquiries about WATFAA and most subsequently joining. This has been greatly assisted by the use of a good quality website and the use of social media.

Club competitions and our monthly club meetings have been very successful and fully attended. The Winter Wash, Fish-a-Fest and Redfin Perch Competition are the three major events designed to enable new or visiting members to get a feel for the club, assisting them to equip themselves to fish in WA's unique freshwater fishery, orientate their way around WATFAA dams and get advice on their chosen form of fishing. For established members it is a great way of catching up with each other and for them to meet new and current members alike.

We endeavour to continue to provide and indeed expand the very things that attracted the individuals to the club in the first place. Translocation of Trout in aquaculture, private and public water, has not been an issue this year. Getting approvals to translocate fish is far more streamlined and lead times have been significantly decreased.

The major issue for freshwater anglers in WA and Australia in general is the slowly diminishing quality of water namely, fresh flowing streams and rivers. WATFAA, like other interested parties must face the challenge of protecting those waters which are available both at present and into the future. In this and many other matters our club is grateful for the support and assistance given by both Recfishwest, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Warren Catchment Council and the Department of Fisheries (WA).

### **Future projects**

We are looking to eradicate some areas of Blackberry that would serve both the general public and our members with a better and more fulfilling opportunity to fish public waterways.

Lastly, it is pleasing to note that the Department of Fisheries, through the Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group, has once again been very active in stocking streams, rivers and dams of the South West. Of particular importance are the fisheries within easy reach of Perth, which have been well stocked.

### **Bretton Stitfold**

Secretary

### recfishwest corporate governance charter recfishwest governance statement

#### Introduction

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has adopted the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations as amended in 2010 (ASX Principles and Recommendations). These principles have been modified slightly, so as to properly reflect the fact that Recfishwest is an incorporated association rather than an ASX reporting entity.

#### Purpose

The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused below. To this extent, the Corporate Governance Committee maintains a compliance report which is included in the annual report of the association and which records the association's compliance with each of these principles and recommendations in the preceding twelve months.

The Recfishwest Governance Committee regularly reviews its corporate governance systems with the aim of ensuring that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance, by having regard to all relevant developments in its operating environment.

The Nomination and Remunerations Committee is responsible for scheduling performance reviews of each Director and the CEO which is tabled at the Board level for discussion and recommendations with respect to remuneration and professional development. Annual performance reviews for the CEO and for each Director in the 2015/16 financial year took place in January and February, respectively.

Recfishwest Board and management recognise that effective risk management is integral to the continued maintenance and governance of our business and requires a structured risk management framework and approach.

In 2016 the Finance, Audit and Risk committee undertook a Business Risk Management Review Process of Recfishwest facilitated by the WA based risk management company RiskLink.

Our framework includes a defined risk management process to identify, assess, evaluate, treat, and monitor risks. Our risk management approach is based on a practical and pragmatic approach integrated into our business planning and decision making.

Recfishwest's Risk Management Framework includes the production of a documented Business Risk Register which records identified risks and information about the assessment, evaluation and treatment of business risks. The Business Risk Register allows for ongoing review and monitoring of the risks to ensure they remain current, with current, effective controls and risk levels that remain acceptable to Recfishwest.

Our risk management framework and approach is based on good practice risk management:

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines.
- HB 327:2010 Communicating and Consulting about Risk.
- HB 436:2013 Risk Management Guidelines – Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009.



ASX Principles and Recommendations		Location in 2015/16 Annual Report (AR) or on Website	Compliance
<b>Principle 1 - Lay solid foundations for management and oversight</b>			
1.1	Establish the functions reserved for the Board and those delegated to senior executives and disclose those functions.	Website: See Delegations Register	Yes
1.2	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of senior executives.	Annual Report Section 7	Yes
1.3	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 1.	See above	Yes
<b>Principle 2 - Structure the Board to add value</b>			
2.1	A majority of the Board should be independent directors.	Annual Report The Board 1-2	Yes
2.2	The chair should be an independent director.	Annual Report Page 6	Yes

ASX Principles and Recommendations		Location in 2015/16 Annual Report (AR) or on Website	Compliance
2.3	The roles of the chair and chief executive office should not be exercised by the same individual	Annual Report Pages 5-9	Yes
2.4	The Board should establish a nomination committee.	Annual Report Page 6 Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes
2.5	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors.	Annual Report Section 7	Yes
2.6	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 2.	See Above	Yes
<b>Principle 3 - Promote ethical and responsible decision making</b>			
3.1	<p>Establish a code of conduct and disclose the code or a summary of the code as to:</p> <p>3.1.1 the practices necessary to maintain confidence in the Company's integrity</p> <p>3.1.2 the practices necessary to take into account their legal obligations and the reasonable expectations of Recfishwest stakeholders</p> <p>3.1.3 the responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices</p>	<p>Website: See Code of Conduct for Board of Directors; and Code of Conduct for Employees</p> <p>Website: See Whistle-blower Policy</p>	Yes
3.2	Companies should establish a policy concerning diversity and disclose the policy or a summary of that policy. The policy should include requirements for the board to establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and for the board to assess annually both the objectives and progress in achieving them.	Website: Diversity Policy	Yes
3.3	Companies should disclose in each annual report the measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity set by the Board in accordance with the diversity policy and progress towards achieving them.	Website: Diversity Policy Annual Report Page 5-12	Yes

ASX Principles and Recommendations		Location in 2015/16 Annual Report (AR) or on Website	Compliance
3.4	Companies should disclose in each annual report the proportion of women employees in the whole organisation, women in senior executive positions and women on the Board.	Annual Report Page 5-12	Yes
3.5	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 3.	See Above	Yes
<b>Principle 4 - Safeguard integrity in financial reporting</b>			
4.1	The Board should establish an audit committee	Annual Report Page 6	Yes
4.2	Structure the audit committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists only of non-executive directors</li> <li>• Consists of a majority of independent directors</li> <li>• Is chaired by an independent chair, who is not chair of the Board</li> <li>• Has at least three members</li> </ul>	Annual Report Page 6-8	Yes
4.3	The audit committee should have a formal charter.	Website: See Finance Audit & Risk Committee Charter	Yes
4.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 4.	Annual Report Page 5-6 Website: See Recfishwest Constitution	Yes
<b>Principle 5 - Make timely and balanced disclosure</b>			
5.1	Establish written policies designed to ensure compliance with disclosure requirements and to ensure accountability at a senior executive level for that compliance and disclose those policies or a summary of those policies.	Website : See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter  Not applicable as Recfishwest is not an ASX reporting entity.	N/A
5.2	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 5.	Not applicable as Recfishwest is not an ASX reporting entity.	N/A



ASX Principles and Recommendations		Location in 2015/16 Annual Report (AR) or on Website	Compliance
<b>Principle 6 - Respect the rights of members</b>			
6.1	Design a communications policy for promoting effective communication with members encouraging their participation at general meetings and disclose their policy or a summary of that policy	Website: See Communication Committee Charter and Communications Policy	Yes
6.2	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 6.	Website: See Communication Policy	Yes
<b>Principle 7 - Recognise and Manage Risk</b>			
7.1	Establish policies for the oversight and management of material business risks and disclose a summary of those policies.	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter Annual Report Section 7	Yes
7.2	The Board should require management to design and implement the risk management and internal control system to manage the Company's material business risks and report to it on whether those risks are being managed effectively. The Board should disclose that management has reported to it as to the effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter Annual Report Section 7	Yes
7.3	The Board should disclose whether it has received assurance from the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer (or equivalent) that the declarations provided in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act is founded on a sound system or risk management and internal control and that the system is operating effectively in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks.	Not Applicable as Recfishwest is not a disclosing entity pursuant to S295A of the Corporations Act 2001(Cth.)	N/A
7.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting in Principle 7.	Not Applicable Recfishwest is not a disclosing entity pursuant to S295A of the Corporations Act 2001(Cth.)  Notwithstanding the above, reporting requirements on Principle 7 are currently under review by the Governance Committee	N/A

ASX Principles and Recommendations		Location in 2015/16 Annual Report (AR) or on Website	Compliance
<b>Principle 8 - Remunerate fairly and responsibly</b>			
8.1	Establish a remuneration committee	Annual Report Page 6 Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes
8.2	Structure the remuneration committee so that it: • Consists of a majority of independent directors • Is chaired by an independent chair • Has at least three members	Annual Report Pages 6-8	Yes
8.3	Clearly distinguish the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior directors	Website: See Recfishwest Constitution	Yes
8.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 8.	See Above	Yes





## **WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.**

### **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Board have determined that the council is not a reporting entity.


The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the attached financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Chairman



T Bray

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016

# RAY WOOLLEY PTY LTD ACN 30 056 227 297

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL: RAY WOOLLEY FCA (UK) BSc (Hons)  
ASSOCIATE: JAMES FISH FCCA BSc (Hons)

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### WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc., which comprises the balance sheet and statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2016, the income and expenditure statement and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the Board.

#### *Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Board of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies.

#### *Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Ray Woolley Pty Ltd  
Raymond Woolley  
Registered Company Auditor No 16396  
17 Russley Grove Yanchep WA 6035  
Dated this 20 August 2016



**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.**  
**Trading as RECFISHWEST**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

		30/06/2015
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Fiseries Grant	1 131 406.36	1 046 850.00
Other Grants	494 740.95	609 372.02
Memberships	26 010.55	25 845.77
Interest	9 809.08	19 380.03
Inventory Sales	17 042.50	0.00
undry Income	37 295.99	8 029.08
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1 716 305.43</b>	<b>1 709 476.90</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration Expenses	260 100.07	266 293.37
Cost of Sales	13 078.97	0.00
Profit Expenses	211 620.61	170 432.72
Salary and On Cost Expenses	1 014 233.45	875 575.55
Marketing Expenses	332 672.79	226 833.63
Motor Vehicle Expenses	16 590.70	33 938.63
Depreciation	29 827.86	22 946.92
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1 878 124.45</b>	<b>1 596 020.82</b>
<b>Surplus before Exceptional Item</b>	<b>161 819.02</b>	<b>113 456.08</b>
<b>Exceptional Item</b>		
Smart Phone App	90 895.82	0.00
FAOs purchased in year	0.00	143 090.06
<b>Deficit for the year after Exceptional Item</b>	<b><u><u>-\$252,714.84</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>-\$29,633.98</u></u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.**  
**Trading as RECFISHWEST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As at 30 June 2016**

	\$	30/06/2015 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	171,691.13	434,460.66
Cash on hand	200.00	200.00
Trade Debtors	153,166.58	83,751.80
Inventory	3,463.79	0.00
Prepayments	8,120.62	6,700.96
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>336,642.12</u>	<u>525,113.42</u>
<b>Non - Current Assets</b>		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	80,699.88	75,110.53
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>63,506.78</u>	<u>60,084.79</u>
	17,193.10	15,025.74
Motor Vehicles at Cost	108,075.97	108,075.97
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>43,264.21</u>	<u>23,950.34</u>
	64,811.76	84,125.63
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>	<u>82,004.86</u>	<u>99,151.37</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>418,646.98</u>	<u>624,264.79</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	9,566.25	14,640.75
Trade Creditors	1,458.43	13,302.62
Accrual Expenses	51,263.53	16,481.03
Grants Received on Advance	0.00	21,683.00
PAID Withholding Payable	18,314.00	14,400.00
Payable	2,902.81	18,737.19
Provision for Annual Leave	50,812.96	39,124.35
Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>83,501.37</u>	<u>64,022.14</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>212,013.73</u>	<u>164,916.70</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><u>206,633.25</u></u>	<u><u>459,348.09</u></u>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Retained Surpluses brought Forward	459,348.09	488,982.07
Deficit for the year	<u>252,714.84</u>	<u>29,633.98</u>
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<u><u>206,633.25</u></u>	<u><u>459,348.09</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2016**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA, and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies. The Board has determined that the Council is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or except where specifically stated current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise. They have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**a. Income Tax**

The Council is exempt from income tax.

**b. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

PPE are carried at cost less where applicable any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Council commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Assets below \$1000 are written off in the year of expenditure.

**c. Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period the Board reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset (being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use) to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

**d. Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the Council's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. There is a contingent liability for personal leave not accounted for of \$99,517.82.

Long service leave is calculated at current rates based upon 8.67 weeks leave after 10 years.

**e. Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**f. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call, bank balances and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**g. Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, the consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue. Description of income is taken into account when received by the Council.

Interest revenue is recognised on receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2016**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**ii. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST payable is not recoverable from the Australian taxation authority. Revenues and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST receivable from or payable to the ATO is included in other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

**i. Accounts Payable and Other Payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability if the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Notes to the audited financial accounts by the Recfishwest accountant:

1. Recfishwest reduced their need to outsource professional services for projects by employing skilled staff. Therefore the Salary and On Cost Expenses show an increase compared to the previous year.

Recfishwest also employed an additional communications staff member in order to develop the new Smartphone App as well as improve our website and social media capabilities.

2. Marketing/Communications Expenses increased from the previous year due to the new Recfishwest Smartphone App and services provided by Silver Scales Publishing who wrote the content for our new "I Love Fishing" website.





“As a community based organisation made up of keen fishers, Recfishwest shares and embodies the beliefs and values of those who love fishing in everything we do”.

**Dr. Andrew Rowland**  
Chief Executive Officer







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Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council trading as Recfishwest ABN: 77 922 817 608